

مركز البيدر للدراسات والتخطيط

Al-Baidar Center For Studies And Planning



# The Political Rationalities

Ibrahim Al-Abadi

A selected number of academics, activists, and interested parties gathered at Al-Baidar Center for Studies and Planning on Tuesday, August 15th, to attend the speech of the Iraqi ambassador Luqman Al-Faili. Al-Faili discussed the unification of German states in 1990, lessons learned, and the potential for Iraq to gain from this experience. Al-Faili discussed how the German success story was shaped by the will, party culture, economic ability, and diplomatic apparatus.

Al-Baidar Center for Studies and Planning has organized two significant events that have brought researchers together. The first presentation was given by Dr. Hisham Al-Alawi, the current deputy secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a former ambassador to South Africa, who discussed the challenges of governance, corruption, development, and political integration in South Africa as well as how the country managed to succeed to some extent despite great adversity. The second was given by Ambassador Al-Faili himself, who gave a thorough description of the political history of Germany just after World War I, the time when various parties and movements fought and caused political strife, partisan clashes, and a significant ideological split.

The Weimar Republic was unable to control the situation until partisan strife, economic instability, and governmental weakness led to a toxic outcome. Inspired by the ideas of Nietzschean power, the Germans hurried with every call to force and confrontation to reclaim what they felt to be a right that had been lost as they started to desire rescue from this reality. Due to the catastrophes of war that Hitler started, the fanatical nationalist appeal spread, resulting in Germany's astonishingly quick conversion to Nazism and the great self-destruction of Europe. Germany did not come out of it with anything other than multiple occupations of its territory, social division, and state destruction, which it dealt with swiftly within 44 years, relying on the

insight of eminent politicians like Konrad Adenauer, Willy Brandt, and Helmut Kohl, as well as a productive social culture that created a model for the welfare state once more and restored the country's statehood. The fall of the socialist system in 1990 was swiftly followed by the creation of its eastern (communist) region.

Dedicated researchers, including some perceptive Iraqi diplomats, are drawn to the lessons of history and the experiences of other nations in order to apply what they have learned to the Iraqi reality. Building their political culture may help them move away from unilateralism and stagnation and toward in-depth understanding, open knowledge, and cognitive and scientific humility. They might start with the educated elites of interest before going on to the political and partisan circles. Perhaps it will contribute to the maturity and development of the ongoing political development in Iraq, which is a development marred by partisan chaos, multi-form conflicts, and the widespread use of political money with great corruption.

The German Chargé d'Affaires participated in the most recent seminars of the Al-Baidar Center for Studies and Planning with great interest, and in his remarks, he encouraged the audience to draw inspiration from the German experience, which he spoke about with pride, indicating that the German people in the western part voluntarily accepted the economic cost of the integration unit, which came to 1,500 billion dollars, because Germany is a wealthy country, and it is the locomotive of stability and economic advancement in Europe, just like Iraq, which has no less strategic value in its location, geographical surroundings, history, and diverse demographics.

The nature of Iraq's political culture, its traits, and its role in the failures that have occurred and are currently occurring are all raised by the series of seminars, which concentrate on significant global experiences

in political and economic construction and democratic transition. It goes without saying that Iraq's political ideas and tendencies are one of the country's main historical issues. Furthermore, the objectives and principles that they try to uphold in their political and social realities, where the indicator swings back and forth between too idealistic thinking and discouraging realism.

Iraq has had a number of incidents, catastrophes, massive disasters, changes, and turning points, the majority of which were terrible and violent, and each incident emanates motivational lessons for averting further errors and dumb policies. We do not exaggerate when we remark Iraq's political upbringing carries the weight of much political behavior full of improvisation, recklessness, and unbalanced (revolutionary) impulses. While rational tendencies vanish, are authoritatively suppressed, or are socially stigmatized as a result of the supremacy of the political emotion paradigm that defines Iraqis.

The advantage of knowing about other people's and countries' experiences is that it offers thorough knowledge that inspires people to overcome obstacles, discover ways to solve problems and realize their objectives and goals.

There are experiences of democratic transition in more than one country that suffered from tyranny, totalitarianism, political oppression, and civil wars. There are also inspiring experiences in managing diversity and ethnic, sectarian, and racial differences, and examples of successful constitutional construction and administrative decentralization appear on the global experience board.

International experiences connect, in confronting the penetration of corruption, the influence of political money, and the spread of mafias of profiteering and clientelism. These universal models should all be

studied, analyzed, and emulated. In Iraq, we are still taking the initial steps between faltering and relative success in escaping the tight circle of economic, social, and political crises and challenges. No country has crossed its historical turning points without sound awareness, a critical culture, political will among its historical bloc, and national consensus on priorities and keys to solutions to achieve progress and knowledge in the comprehensive development project (Political, economic, cultural, and social development) with its major requirements, represented by social and human capital, material tools, internal security, and a favorable external environment.

Now that there is internal agreement Iraq needs to concentrate on tackling climate change-related issues like drought, desertification, pollution, diseases, poverty, and unemployment. To overcome these significant problems, political and security stability are necessary. To address these, there must be national engagement and efficient modern governance. The political culture still frustrates and limits the availability of a national project like the one Germany completed, despite regional and international cooperation to overcome its challenges and obstacles. Or similar to what Rwanda accomplished. Or Georgia's achievement in fighting corruption, or the economic successes of Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, India, Turkey, and Chile. All of these countries have their own paths and experiences in constitutional construction and political development before they succeed in economic construction. Building an economy has its necessary political, security, and cultural conditions.

We still have a lot to learn, so long as we are willing to learn from others' experiences and can get past our unhealthy preoccupation with privacy and distorted perception of how special the situation in Iraq is. Peculiarity is not a barrier to learning from others' experiences; rather, it is a curtain that limits insight and critical reading and excuses

failure and incapability.

Our political culture tends to rely on the past and its historical assumptions and relies on the tendency to transform the lines of conflict and competition for power into major rifts that prevent agreement on commonalities and the prioritization of major national interests over others. The elites, research institutions, and educational platforms will continue to have the challenge of attempting to advance the rationality of political thought rather than the flat invasion of minds practiced by the forces and platforms that dominate the arena until there is a change in this culture.

**Research Info.**

Researcher's name: Ibrahim Al-Abadi. Writer and researcher in the political field.

Title: The Political Rationalities

Publication Date: Spetember 2023

The article was published in Al-Sabah newspaper, issue No. (5757) on Monday August 21, 2023

**Note**

The opinions expressed in this research do not necessarily express the center's point of view but rather express the point of view of its author.

## **About center**

Al-Baydar Center for Studies and Planning is a non-governmental and non-profit organization established in 2015 and registered with the NGO directorate in the general secretariat of the council of ministers in Baghdad.

The center seeks to contribute to developing the state and its institutions, by proposing ideas and practical solutions to the main problems and challenges facing the state, including improving public sector management, policies, and strategic planning, using reliable data and best practices. The center engages the relevant authorities in the state with regular meetings to support this objective and utilizes the support of international organizations dedicated to assisting Iraq's development. The center also seeks to support economic reforms, and sustainable development and provide technical assistance to the public and private sectors. The center also seeks to support the development of the private sector to provide job opportunities for citizens through training and upskilling, in a way that reduces dependence on government institutions and contributes to supporting and diversifying the country's economy.

The center aims to utilize the vast amount of potential in Iraq's human resources by organizing programs to prepare and develop promising young people, including leaders capable of proposing, adopting and implementing visions and future plans that advance society and preserve its value-system based on the commitment to a high moral standard and rejection of all types of corruption.

All rights reserved to Al-Baydar Center for Studies and Planning

**[www.baidarcenter.org](http://www.baidarcenter.org)**

---

**[info@baidarcenter.org](mailto:info@baidarcenter.org)**