

Analysis of the Impact of Democracy on Economic Growth in Selected Countries with a Special Reference to Iraq “Statistical study By Utilizing SPSS”

عباس جابر عبدالله*

جامعة المثنى / كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية

article info

Article history:

Received 12/12/2018

Received in revised form 16/1/2019

Accepted 3/3 /2019

Available online 28/5/2019

Keywords:

الديمقراطية
النمو
النمو الاقتصادي
العراق
التأثير
بارومتر

abstract

Recently, there has appeared a clear controversy in the relationship between democracy and economic growth. Many researchers have published researches focusing on the relationship between democracy and economic growth, especially in Eastern Europe and Latin America where the features of democratization such as civil liberties, human right, political participation and peaceful transition of power based on the results of the elections and constitutional rules have prevailed. Although Iraq has applied the concepts of democracy since 2003, The Iraqi situation especially in relationship between the democratic transition and the economic growth has not been tackled. Therefore, this research is trying to tackle the impact of the democratic experience on the economic growth in Iraq, whether the impact is positive or negative. In order to realize the results, our research question is what is the impact of the democratic experience on the economic growth in Iraq? Is it positive or negative? The research depends on a fundamental hypothesis that shows that the democratic transition in Iraq has positive impacts on increasing economic growth by depending on Arab Democracy Barometer Wave III 2012-2014 and “SPSS” through a questionnaire, polls, survey and interviews with sufficient number of Iraqis. The results of study have shown that the democratic transition in Iraq has positive effects in enhancing economic growth despite the political and security instability and terrorist attacks there; thus it is supports our hypothesis.

The Latin American countries and democratic transformations of Eastern Europe

In recent years, numerous studies have been published covering relationship between democracy and economic growth because they are the basis of the evolution of nations. One of these studies⁽¹⁾ examines the relationship between democracy as an independent variable and the economic growth as a dependent variable in the Latin and Central American countries. This research has addressed the main idea that is the high political participation as part of democracy leads to the increase in economic growth. The researcher also mentions that the reduction of political participation leads to a slower economic growth and thus influences the well-being of the country in general and the individual in particular.

The author has followed a methodology that depends on a survey to prove that a high level of democratic participation is linked with more equal distributions of income. He has used in this paper set of samples to prove the paper's hypothesis that the reduction of political participation leads to a slower the economic growth and vice versa.

There is a need for a new methodology to test how political status, like democracy, affects economical indices. To accomplish this, a joint system of equations should be used, that democracy has an active role of impact on some economic growth indices;

therefore, the impact of democracy on economic growth can be measured accurately. Three major achievements are expected⁽²⁾: first, while clear links between democracy and economic growth cannot be firmly confirmed, indirect links can. Second, if growth channel is irrelevant, the affected channel can be accurately forecasted. And last but not least, the amplitude of different impacts has been shown to give a pointer for the importance of each characteristics of democracy when it comes to affect economical indices, precisely economic growth. The results can help to make the foundation of low costs democratic institutions.

Indeed, the paper has focused on the relationship of the high rates of political participation and economic growth without taking into consideration the recent results of such participation⁽³⁾. Therefore, it has neglected an important fact that the high rates of political participation may be a major reason of degradation the economic policies of the state. For example, there are many uneducated voters who do not know how to evaluate the economic situation of their countries.

Hence, they would vote for the party that does not have any expertise in the development of the national economy, leading to the government deficit and the negative economic effects in the long term. As a result, there is a shortage and weaknesses of evidence in the paper. In addition, it is not clear, as the paper read,

that political participation is a foundation factor to develop the economy, where there are other factors affecting economic growth as human rights, freedoms, security stability, investments and the rule of law⁽⁴⁾. In addition, many studies⁽⁵⁾ have emerged to show that the early application of democratic adversely affect the economic growth. Poland and the Czech Republic achieved a record growth in 1993 and were able to reduce the rate of inflation, which rose in the early years of the changes in these two states⁽⁶⁾.

Therefore Fidrmuc's study tries to refute the above thesis. The research problem revolves around the democratic transitions in Eastern Europe which happened to achieve economic reforms and growth which lost those States during the authoritarian rule⁽⁷⁾. The main idea of the research show that political liberalization and economic reforms that have taken place in Eastern European states and former Soviet Union was the result of early application of the democratic system. On this basis, the author's hypothesis shows that the application of the democratic system in Eastern Europe had a positive impact on the rise of economic growth.

This study uses the democratic transformation as an independent variable and economic growth as a dependent one, there is a positive relationship between the two variables according to result of SPSS. Also the writer has adopted the experimental and comparative approaches.

For example he has taken samples from Secondary schools before and after democratic the transition.

Therefore, it is clear that the number of the students after the transition was more than the number before as a result of high incomes and the increase in government expenditure. Also the writer gives further evidence by comparing the gross domestic product in the 25 countries of Central and Eastern Europe as well as the Soviet Union before and after the transition to democracy⁽⁸⁾.

It concluded that states that implemented democracy did not face deflation and inflation, unlike the countries that were far from the democratic system. On the other hand, the results show that the progress in democratization states were affected by economic performance at the beginning and during transition, these states were more developed at the start of transition. In addition the states that show faster growth turning transition implemented a better democracy⁽⁹⁾.

However, the paper gives incomplete and weak evidence. A previous shows study showing that the proportion of people who do not have houses in the countries of the democratic transition in Central and Eastern Europe continues to rise with the economic growth⁽¹⁰⁾. In addition, there is a large deficit in the budget of some

countries as a result of the current economic austerity policies and financial crises. Besides, there was a rise in organized crime and trafficking in human beings and prostitution in those countries as a result of the deteriorating economic situation that led to the emigration of women in particular to other countries especially to the Arab Gulf to work and search for job countries⁽¹¹⁾.

Finally, the paper does not address the negative impact of economic growth on democracy. There are states that suffer from deteriorating economic conditions. For instance, Hungary suffers from low financial resources due to the recession and deflation that has plagued its economy in general. Slovakia also suffers from a budget deficit and a high unemployment rate. For this reason the Slovak government proceeded to follow the privatization system and pursued a hard-line policy to confront the financial crisis and halt the decline in the price of its currency⁽¹²⁾.

The another paper belong Tavares and Wacziarg⁽¹³⁾ who indicate that the democratic institutions have a positive direct impact on the economic growth through sets of growth channels such as enhancing the accumulation of human capital and lowering income inequality. The study uses the democratic institutions as an independent variable and the economic growth as a dependent one. It has proved that the relationship between the

two variables is significant according to SPSS used by the author. Also the study uses the experimental method to result into the findings.

By analyzing the main characteristics of variables such as civil liberties, freedom of expression, regular and fair elections, protection of minorities, peaceful transfer of power and government's accountability by people, the author clarifies the main evidences for the study. For instance, the regular elections and peaceful transition of power reduces the level of uncertainty about the policy pursued by the politicians and this leads to a better confidence in the big political and economic institutions that reinforce the business environment which leads to the economic growth in any state.

This study can apply to all countries of the world. However, it is important to state that democratic institutions and economic growth worldwide depend on the security and stability, which is lacking in some countries such as Iraq. Although there are fair elections and a peaceful transfer of power, the security situation and the administrative corruption in Iraq led the country into austerity from the beginning. Democracy in this case, cannot lead to growth alone. On this basis, consequences of democracy is long-term; the more democratic systems focus on the realization of the rule of law in addition to the effective containment of the political pressure, redistribution wealth increases and economic growth achieves better

results. Besides, the researcher has answered a research question which is how democratic institutions lead to growth? The researcher has tackled the positive side of the coin only, without studying the negative.

Democratic transformations in the Middle East and Arab Spring Countries

At the Arab level, it has shown that poverty; Unemployment and lack of economic opportunity represent the main causes of the Arab revolutions in countries like Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen and Iraq. The economic hardships led the Arab people to lose their trust in governments, therefore setting the stage for the massive uprisings⁽¹⁴⁾.

Education and its connection with the economic environment are considered by Campante and Chor as determinant factors for the social instabilities characterizing the countries that have been at the center of the protest movements. These authors argue that in the Arab countries where the Arab Spring occurred, the unemployed had increased levels of education. They also point out that the poor labor market of the educated youth is associated with increased likelihood of engaging in political and protest activities⁽¹⁵⁾.

There is also a study (Campante, FR, & Chor), which showed three important issues. The first point is that, education is the best indicator to measure the level and rate of participation for the Arab individuals in political involvement such

as, elections and voting. Here, the relationship is counterproductive which whenever there is a level of education is more sophisticated this means the ratio of political involvement is extremely large and vice versa. The research finds that the Arab states largely failed to provide an advanced level of education of the Arab individual, which reflected negatively on the government as a whole especially the countries of the Arab Spring, such as Egypt, Yemen, Libya and Tunisia⁽¹⁶⁾.

All those negatives led to a non-participation of the Arabic individual in regard to the significant issues political (elections and voting) as a result the failure of government to provide the simplest things of life for their individuals such as education, health, jobs and Freedom of expression.

The research also compared the level of education in the Arab individual countries where the Arab Spring occurred and that did not occur.

Second, research proves that there is a relationship between education and political protest, which was confirmed through analysis and figures. Whenever there is a sophisticated education this means lack of the political protests and vice versa. In accordance with this Morocco, Iraq, Egypt, Algeria and Tunisia are the worst-ranked countries in this field⁽¹⁷⁾.

Third, the research by analyzing the data reaches the high unemployment rates in the Middle East countries, especially in the

first year of the Arab Spring, particularly Egypt and Tunisia, which reflected negatively on the government's performance as a whole, which led to non-confidence of some people in their the government as a result that⁽¹⁸⁾.

On the other hand, in an article published in Journal of Democracy, Stepan and Linz analyzes whether the existing theories on democratization are usable or applicable to the Arab Spring. Here used religion, culture and freedom as genuine variables to measure do the Arab countries pro-democracy or not? The results were that democracy cannot coexist with religion because there are multi-doctrines and sects in Middle East which create a kind of political, religious, and social chaos, hence the Arab region has witnessed many civil wars, as happened in Iraq in 2006, which is happening now in Syria. They (Stepan and Linz analyzes) argue that religion, specifically Islam, played a central role in the Arab Spring, however religion as a factor in democratization is under theorized. They argue that Islam is compatible with democratic norms and that students of democratization should come up with new concepts which could be applied to trace the role of religion in the democratization of countries like Egypt or Tunisia, where the Arab Spring led to change of political incumbents⁽¹⁹⁾.

Some of the authors like Kuhn have relied on several indicators to measure human development progress in the Arab

countries, then, to know confidence or non-confidence of people for their governments. Therefore, there was study based on multiple indicators of human development. The indicators are education, health, and political participation, increased longevity, housing, and unemployment. An author find any evolution in human development will contribute to a genuine reordering of the relationship between individual and state and that development will finally drive to real democratic change⁽²⁰⁾.

Kuhn studies the impact of human development on the events surrounding the Arab Spring. The author argues that human development created the conditions of increased human needs, challenging the government. Human development and increased access to advanced information technologies created conditions for human protests, which have not found a political and economic responding by their governments. He also based his study on several indicators of human development. Those indicators included education, health, political participation, increased longevity, housing, and unemployment. The author found that evolution in human development contributes to a genuine reordering of the relationship between individual and state and that development leads, ultimately to real democratic change⁽²¹⁾.

Another study that analyzes the causes of the Arab Spring is written by Dewey et al. in 2012. It investigates the role of the social

media upon the social unrest of the Arab Spring. Focusing on countries in which social unrest was especially pronounced: Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen, the authors find that exogenous political and social shocks represented the main drivers for the social unrest. Their quantitative findings also show that social media by themselves (Facebook, Twitter) are not sufficient to explain the occurrence of the Arab Spring uprisings. The Internet, however, played a crucial role in facilitating the social unrest, because it offered a type of “virtual civil society platform”, which increased the participation in protests, especially in countries where government repression prohibits certain political groups⁽²²⁾.

Some studies addressed the case of the Arab Spring from another angle is a comparison between young Arab and older generations in terms of which is more support for the protest and demonstration and especially in Egypt, Libya and Tunisia. Which is preferred by the Islamic state? After analyzing these variables, these show that the youth cohort in these countries remains complicated in because this category played a major role in the overthrow of these governments by protests and condemnation of political discontent prevailing in their countries compared to older generations. Also through the questionnaire and analysis showed the Arab youth is more dissatisfied with their

regimes and they keen on secular political Islam to create the political and economic prosperity, while rest of older generations still cling dictatorial Islamism government those governments which have caused unemployment, poverty and economic-social corruption⁽²³⁾.

Hoffman and Jamal study the conditions under which the Arab Spring occurred by looking at generational differences. Specifically, these authors compare the attitudes of young versus older generations of Arabs in Egypt, Tunisia and Libya in terms of their support for the protest and demonstration. They find generational differences in these countries with respect to popular support of protest activities. The youth played a major role in the overthrow of political incumbents, participating in political protests and showing public discontent. The youth also supported secular states and showed a preference for economic prosperity and development. The older citizens, however, showed support for the Islamic state and for the dictatorial governments the rulings of which were responsible for the flourishing of unemployment, poverty and economic-social corruption⁽²⁴⁾.

Some of standpoints went to rely on religion, culture and language variables to explain the changes of democratization in the Arabic region. Then linking of these variables with theories of democratization that may be internal or external factors, for instance, there were countries whose

political systems toppled as a result of internal and external impacts. Such impacts were among countries such as Egypt, Libya, Yemen, and Tunisia while, some other countries have witnessed minor political variations such as Lebanon, Jordan, and Morocco. But Syria has been excluded from the comparison because of the civil war and the volatile situation there⁽²⁵⁾.

The genuine conclusion of views is that the changes between the countries in terms of the state of democratization could not be illustrated by the internal and external impacts, but there are some arguments connecting all events of the Arab Spring with the global economic crisis as well as the authoritarian regime's political and economic failures.

Other major variables to knowledge prosperity levels in the Arabic countries are corruption and human development especially they are embedded in social relations. In this regard, there is a study, which showed a cross conclusive evidence that human development and corruption are unstable partners in particular in countries of the Arab spring, and demonstrated how corruption undermines human security and emasculate human development in all the Arab countries. In addition, this study illustrated more actions in order to anti-corruption notably surveillance and transparency with dealing in the public and private sectors and combating bribery.

The Impact of Democracy on Economic Growth in Iraq By Using SPSS

The previous studies focus on the positive side of democracy impacts on economic growth without taking into account the negative impact of this relationship. In fact, this should focus on whether the effect is positive or negative. Hence, our research discusses the problematic relationship between two variables to show whether the impact is positive or negative. Also most analysts have tackled countries from Western Europe and Latin America where the features of democratization. Although Iraq has applied the concepts of democracy since 2003, The Iraqi situation especially in relationship between the democratic transition and the economic growth has not been tackled. Therefore, it is important to conduct a study that focuses on the Iraqi case. My research question is what is the impact of the democratic experience on the economic growth in Iraq? Is it positive or negative? In order to reach a genuine answer to the research question, the study suggests the following hypotheses:

- The working hypothesis (**H1**) is that the democratic transition in Iraq has positive impacts on increasing economic growth.
- The null hypothesis (**H0**) is that the democratic transition in Iraq slows economic growth.

The **independent variable** is democracy and the **dependent one** is economic growth.

My study depends on ordinal variables where chose two questions to get to the results from Arab Democracy Barometer Wave III 2012-2014⁽²⁶⁾. The first question is “If you were to evaluate the state of democracy in Iraq, would you say that they are (very good, good, neither good nor bad, bad and very bad) as independent variable. The second question is “How would you evaluate the current economic situation in Iraq, would you say that they are (very good, good, bad, very Bad) as dependent one. The sample size that evaluates the democratic situation in Iraq consists of 1070 persons and the sample size that evaluates the current economic situation in Iraq consists of 1209 persons. Regarding the results of the evaluation of the democratic situation in Iraq there are 37 persons said that the democratic situation in Iraq very good (3.5%), 404 persons said that the democratic situation in Iraq good (37.8%), 315 persons said that the democratic situation in Iraq neither good nor bad (29.4%) and 314 persons said that

the democratic situation in Iraq bad (29.3%) (See table 1 in appendix) Also Mean = 2.85, Std. Deviation = .887, Maximum = 4, Minimum=1 and Range=3 (See table 3 in appendix). The results of the evaluation of the current economic situation in Iraq there are 54 persons said that the current economic situation in Iraq very good (4.5%), 576 persons said that the current economic situation in Iraq good (47.6%), 457 persons said that the current economic situation in Iraq bad (37.8%) and 122 persons said that the current economic situation in Iraq very bad (10.1%) (See table 2 in appendix). Also Mean=2.54, Std. Deviation=.735, Maximum=4, Minimum=1 and Range=3 (See table 3 in appendix).

In order to test and examine research's hypothesis have been used crosstabs Chi square test. It is showed findings rejection H0 (the null hypothesis) and accept H1 (the working hypothesis) because the results of the analysis showed that the relationship between the variables is significant because .000 less than .05 and the tables in appendix shows this.

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	241.293 ^a	9	.000

Likelihood Ratio	223.950	9	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	189.277	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	1065		

Conclusion

The study has reached a realistic fact that should be mentioned when talking about the relationship between democracy and growth in countries that suffer from the political and security instability and the ongoing terrorist attacks. This fact is that in spite of the terrorist acts and continuing instability and the presence since 2003 to 2014 in Iraq, the several variants of democracy (regular elections, the protection of minorities, freedom, human rights, political participation, the peaceful transfer of power based on the results of the elections and constitutional rules) have proved effective as instrument to increase economic growth that has been observed by high rates of individuals income rates. Iraq has seen a real improvement on the economic field especially the rate has increased annual per capita income of \$100 to \$4000 in 2011⁽²⁷⁾. Thus the standard of living of the Iraqi citizen increased. Therefore, the analysis of data has shown that the majority of Iraqis agree on the fact that the democratic transition in Iraq after 2003 is one of the main and assistant factors in the rising economic growth. Also there are a large proportion of the Iraqi

people who believe that the economic situation and democracy are essential elements of new state-building.

In addition, empirical evidence has shown that the higher the per capita income level, the greater the likelihood that the country is democratic will be. It can identify specific mechanisms to explain this causal relationship: the first, based on the rise of the middle class to create a non-government civil society networks representing a public life uncontrolled by the government. The other mechanism is that of human capital development through education; the more educated people are, the less likely they are to give in to authoritarian rule. This results into an increasing demand to participate in political life.

Therefore, it is difficult for authoritarian rule to continue in most sophisticated societies. Hence, the rapid growth authoritarian regimes do not enjoy a long term life because economic growth carries with it the seeds of the collapse of these regimes⁽²⁸⁾. However, there is no assumption that the economic growth remains constant over time because of the increasing military spending to fight the so-

called Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, especially after the fall of the city of Mosul, Tikrit and Anbar under the control of ISIS as well as case of economic austerity that has prevailed in the country since the

beginning of 2015 due to lower oil prices and ongoing political conflicts that could lead to division Iraq into three parts Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds in the future.

Appendix

(Table 1) The evaluation of the democratic situation in Iraq

		Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1 Very good	37	3.0	3.5	3.5
	2 Good	404	33.3	37.8	41.2
	3 Neither good nor bad	315	25.9	29.4	70.7
	4 Bad	314	25.8	29.3	100.0
	Total	1070	88.1	100.0	
Missing	System	145	11.9		
	Total	1215	100.0		

(Table 2) The evaluation of the current economic situation in Iraq

		Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1 Very Good	54	4.4	4.5	4.5
	2 Good	576	47.4	47.6	52.1
	3 Bad	457	37.6	37.8	89.9

4	Very bad	122	10.0	10.1	100.0
	Total	1209	99.5	100.0	
Missin	System	6	.5		
g	Total	1215	100.0		

(Table 3) Range, Minimum, Maximum, Mean and Std. Deviation for two variables

	Range	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
The evaluation of the democratic situation in Iraq	3	1	4	2.85	.887
The evaluation of the current economic situation in Iraq	3	1	4	2.54	.735

References

1. Aghion, P., Alesina, A. F., & Trebbi, F. (2007). Democracy, technology, and growth.
2. Campante, F. R., & Chor, D. (2012). Why was the Arab world poised for revolution? Schooling, economic opportunities, and the Arab Spring. *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 26(2), 167-187.
3. Falcetti, E., Raiser, M., & Sanfey, P. (2002). Defying the odds: Initial conditions, reforms, and growth in the first decade of transition. *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 30(2), 229-250.
4. Fidrmuc, J. (2003). Economic reform, democracy and growth during post-communist transition. *European Journal of Political Economy*, 19(3), 583-604.
5. ----- (2000). Economics of voting in post-communist countries. *Electoral Studies*, 19(2), 199-217.

6. _____. (2001). Economic reform, democracy and growth during post-communist transition.
7. Fish, M. S. (1997). The determinants of economic reform in the post-communist world. *East European Politics and Societies*, 12(1), 31-78.
8. Hellman, J. S. (1998). Winners take all: the politics of partial reform in postcommunist transitions. *World politics*, 50(2), 203-234.
9. Hoffman, M., & Jamal, A. (2012). The youth and the Arab spring: cohort differences and similarities. *Middle East Law and Governance*, 4(1), 168-188.
10. Jamali, D., Lanteri, A., & Walburn, A. (2013). Corruption and economic security in the Arab countries: The role of business schools. *International Journal of Sustainable Human Security*, 1(1), 156-177.
11. Kluge, J., Lehmann, H., & Schmidt, C. M. (1999). Active labor market policies in Poland: human capital enhancement, stigmatization, or benefit churning? *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 27(1), 61-89.
12. Kitschelt, H. (1995). Formation of party cleavages in post-communist democracies: Theoretical propositions. *Party politics*, 1(4), 447-472.
13. Krueger, G., & Ciolko, M. (1998). A note on initial conditions and liberalization during transition. *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 26(4), 718-734.
14. Kuhn, R. (2012). On the role of human development in the Arab Spring. *Population and Development Review*, 38(4), 649-683.
15. Majbouri, M. (2015). ESTIMATING THE INCOME COUNTERFACTUAL FOR OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES OF THE MENA REGION.
16. Malik, A., & Awadallah, B. (2013). The economics of the Arab Spring. *World Development*, 45, 296-313.
17. Mueller, D. C., & Stratmann, T. (2003). The economic effects of democratic participation. *Journal of Public Economics*, 87(9), 2129-2155.
18. Munqith Dagher, et al. (2013). Arab Democracy Barometer Wave III 2012-2014, 29, Partner. Independent Institute for Administration and Civil Society Studies in Iraq.
19. Przeworski, A. (1991). Democracy and the market: Political and economic reforms in Eastern Europe and Latin America. Cambridge University Press.
20. Sachs, J., & Woo, W. T. (1994). Structural factors in the economic reforms of China, Eastern Europe, and the former Soviet Union. *Economic policy*, 9(18), 101-145.
21. Stepan, A., & Linz, J. J. (2013). Democratization Theory and the " Arab Spring". *Journal of Democracy*, 24(2), 15-30.

22. Tavares, J., & Wacziarg, R. (2001). How democracy affects growth. *European economic review*, 45(8), 1341-1378.

Footnotes

(1) Mueller, D. C., & Stratmann, T. (2003). The economic effects of democratic participation. *Journal of Public Economics*, 87(9), 2129-2155.

(2) Fish, M. S. (1997). The determinants of economic reform in the post-communist world. *East European Politics and Societies*, 12(1), 31-78.

(3) Hellman, J. S. (1998). Winners take all: the politics of partial reform in postcommunist transitions. *World politics*, 50(2), 203-234.

(4) Kitschelt, H. (1995). Formation of party cleavages in post-communist democracies: Theoretical propositions. *Party politics*, 1(4), 447-472.

(5) Fidrmuc, J. (2003). Economic reform, democracy and growth during post-communist transition. *European Journal of Political Economy*, 19(3), 583-604.

(6) Kluge, J., Lehmann, H., & Schmidt, C. M. (1999). Active labor market policies in Poland: human capital enhancement, stigmatization, or benefit churning?. *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 27(1), 61-89.

(7) Fidrmuc, J. (2001). Economic reform, democracy and growth during post-communist transition.

(8) Falcetti, E., Raiser, M., & Sanfey, P. (2002). Defying the odds: Initial conditions, reforms, and growth in the first decade of transition. *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 30(2), 229-250.

(9) Fidrmuc, J. (2000). Economics of voting in post-communist countries. *Electoral Studies*, 19(2), 199-217.

(10) Krueger, G., & Ciolko, M. (1998). A note on initial conditions and liberalization during transition. *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 26(4), 718-734.

(11) Przeworski, A. (1991). Democracy and the market: Political and economic reforms in Eastern Europe and Latin America. Cambridge University Press.

(12) Sachs, J., & Woo, W. T. (1994). Structural factors in the economic reforms of China, Eastern Europe, and the former Soviet Union. *Economic policy*, 9(18), 101-145.

(13) Tavares, J., & Wacziarg, R. (2001). How democracy affects growth. *European economic review*, 45(8), 1341-1378.

(14) Malik, A., & Awadallah, B. (2013). The economics of the Arab Spring. *World Development*, 45, 296-313.

(15) Campante, F. R., & Chor, D. (2012). Why was the Arab world poised for revolution? Schooling, economic opportunities, and the Arab Spring. *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 26(2), 167-187.

(16) Campante, F. R., & Chor, D. (2012).

(17) Campante, F. R., & Chor, D. (2012).

(18) Campante, F. R., & Chor, D. (2012).

(19) Stepan, A., & Linz, J. J. (2013). Democratization Theory and the "Arab Spring". *Journal of Democracy*, 24(2), 15-30.

(20) Kuhn, R. (2012). On the role of human development in the Arab Spring. *Population and Development Review*, 38(4), 649-683.

(21) Kuhn, R. (2012).

(22) Hoffman, M., & Jamal, A. (2012). The youth and the Arab spring: cohort differences and similarities. *Middle East Law and Governance*, 4(1), 168-188.

(23) Hoffman, M., & Jamal, A. (2012).

(24) Hoffman, M., & Jamal, A. (2012).

(25) Jamali, D., Lanteri, A., & Walburn, A. (2013). Corruption and economic security in the Arab countries: The role of business schools. *International Journal of Sustainable Human Security*, 1(1), 156-177.

(26) Munqith Dagher, et al. (2013). Arab Democracy Barometer Wave III 2012-2014, 29, Partner. Independent Institute for Administration and Civil Society Studies in Iraq.

(27) Majbouri, M. (2015). ESTIMATING THE INCOME COUNTERFACTUAL FOR OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES OF THE MENA REGION.

(28) Aghion, P., Alesina, A. F., & Trebbi, F. (2007). Democracy, technology, and growth.

الملخص

في الآونة الأخيرة تبين ان ثمة جدل واضح وكبير في العلاقة ما بين الديمقراطية والنمو الاقتصادي، إذ قام العديد من الباحثين والكتاب بنشر الأبحاث والدراسات التي تركز على العلاقة بين الديمقراطية والنمو الاقتصادي، خاصة في أوروبا الشرقية وأمريكا اللاتينية حيث تتوفر الملامح الحقيقية للديمقراطية مثل الحريات المدنية وحقوق الإنسان والمشاركة السياسية والانتقال السلمي للسلطة بناءً على نتائج الانتخابات والقواعد الدستورية سادت هناك. وعلى الرغم من تطبيق العراق لمفاهيم الديمقراطية منذ عام 2003، إلا أن الوضع العراقي لاسيما في العلاقة بين الانتقال الديمقراطي والنمو الاقتصادي لم يتم معالجته لحد الان. لذا، يحاول هذا البحث معالجة تأثير التجربة الديمقراطية على النمو الاقتصادي في العراق، سواء اكان هذا التأثير إيجابي أو سلبى. ومن أجل تحقيق النتائج، يحاول البحث الاجابة على السؤال المحوري الا وهو ما تأثير التجربة الديمقراطية على النمو الاقتصادي في العراق؟ هل كان إيجابي أم سلبى؟ ويعتمد البحث على فرضية أساسية تبين أن التحول الديمقراطي في العراق له آثار إيجابية على النمو الاقتصادي المتزايد وذلك بالاعتماد على بيانات (بارومتر الديمقراطية العربي) للأعوام 2012-2014 و(Statistical Package for Social sciences) "SPSS" عن طريق الاستبيان، والاستطلاعات، والمسح (survey)، والمقابلات مع عدد كافٍ من العراقيين. عليه أظهرت نتائج البحث أن التحول الديمقراطي في العراق له آثار إيجابية في تعزيز ودعم النمو الاقتصادي على الرغم من عدم الاستقرار السياسي والأمني والهجمات الإرهابية هناك.