



Education and Peace Building Policies in Iraq Direct applications with The Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Service

Assistant Prof. Dr. Ali Faris Hameed*

Introduction

Peace building policies in any region of the world are linked to the degree of awareness and knowledge possessed by individuals and the levels of resorting to dialogue as an entry point to settling differences and building values of tolerance in society, which require mature laws with the ability to convince citizens that consent and acceptance is part of individuals' commitment to this culture. Iraq led to waves of social threats because of the awareness resulting from the lack of social satisfaction with the state's policies, which coincided after 2003 due to the political conditions that resulted in the growth of many social risks that greatly affected education policies and other methods of socialization until these ideas began to effect on the security, society and weaken peace.

The reliance of education policies on traditional means, especially in the societal fields, negatively affects building the culture of citizens in society, especially if the community education methods are more influential than government education policies - because education in Iraq depends on government support and not on private section, whether in curricula or educational message. - Because of the impact of this on social awareness and knowledge of peace politics and building a culture of dialogue as an alternative to violent means.

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Education represents the method that the state relies on in building social awareness and purifying the negative values that are formed due to the habits of society. In this regard, a group of





factors related to the educational process in Iraq can be dealt with:

The educational message and the impact of upbringing institutions

One of the most important problems of education in Iraq is the poor response to the educational message based on building awareness and rationalizing behavior among individuals. The educational method does not aim at a real message that accompanies the performance of the institution and the social need. The evaluation of this situation in Iraq is the result of reasons related to the method of education, as the explanatory means are declining and the curricula related to dialogue and dealing with society and other cultures are almost non-existent.

Different traditions and values have an important influence as a substitute for education values and a priority compared to education policies that begin in school and sometimes continue to universities. Therefore, the weakness of building education values or the educational message among individuals inside or outside the institution greatly affects the state of extremism in society due to the connection of some Values with violence or thinking inequality. There are various examples of this effect. Dealing with doctors by some individuals in different regions is one aspect of these cases, and because of that, the doctor is forced to resort to social values and deal with them in order to protect himself. This may move to the work of civil society organizations that cannot go against the status of traditions in a particular region.

The lack of integration between the mission of the educational institution and social values, or the difference between them without the existence of criteria to bring them closer, weakens the amount of cooperation and negatively affects the situation of dealing and response between them in terms of integration¹.





Education and Peace Strategies in Iraq

National plans related to building peace in Iraq focus on education, and the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education give an important aspect to this strategy. This strategy focuses on culture and social awareness to prevent and prevent violence. These need programs with important academic institutions such as universities and international organizations such as UNESCO.. UNESCO is working with the University of Mosul to discuss new ideas about education and peace-building in order to address the problems and crises of the state after the control of ISIS in Mosul, as well as the United Nations Mission and the European Union Mission. With Iraqi experts at Al-Nahrain Center for Strategic Studies to develop and build capacities in different regions of Iraq for the purposes of supporting peace building through education policies².

The educational mission aims to serve society and deal with social issues related to the behavior and lives of citizens. The aim of educational programs is to be able to build a culture of peace and prevent extremism. Universities in Iraq seek to enhance community service through educational programs and research projects. In pure science, they seek to find solutions to health or engineering problems, as important inventions related to the needs of individuals are continuously registered in the Ministry of Planning (the authority responsible for inventions in Iraq)³. As well as in the social sciences, where academics present new methods of education based on field studies and digital data in order to identify means that can increase the culture of dialogue and peace-building, such as development programs in Anbar Governorate, which have contributed to supporting government programs for peace-building.

Peace building culture and education policies

Awareness of justice in society requires critical thinking related to the human role as a citizen and not just an individual in





society. Education and culture institutions contribute to building values of peace and tolerance as an alternative to the culture of extremism in society. This needs direct applications in the field of human rights. The government program contributes to supporting A culture of peace through several applications related to work, sports, and planning for the application of scientific research. The appropriate way to combat extremism is through development and capacity building.

The University of Mosul and the Al-Nahrain Center for Strategic Studies, with the support of UNESCO, and the European Union, began developing these programs to include schools, the Ministry of Interior and civil society institutions. The Ministry of Higher Education is working through academics, research projects and advanced studies to develop this aspect, and national plans can help build peace by expanding Aspects of knowledge and culture to expand the culture of peace building, which needs development projects in education for the purpose of stabilizing it, which is the premise of this article.

Academic institutions are trying to implement a set of techniques related to building peace and addressing problems related to the environment and culture to provide new elements of satisfaction in society, and this effort is linked to national initiatives undertaken by some international institutions and agencies such as the German Agency for development in order to provide platforms that support dialogue and participation between the local community And the government, which aims to build peace as an alternative to the culture of confrontation and violence.

Working in accordance with the requirements of the educational mission of academic institutions and promoting modern means of clarification and education will enhance the culture of dialogue and participation in building peace, especially if there





is support for these platforms from specialized agencies such as UNESCO and similar agencies because the indoctrination methodology and other traditional means will not lead to sustainable peace.

Strategy to combat terrorism and promote education for peace building

The Iraqi counter-terrorism strategy is linked to a number of pillars that contributed to the formation of this strategy in terms of thinking, planning and means of implementation, which took a new pattern by virtue of the new pillars on which it was based in formulating this strategy. Making it be in a new way carries with it a different pattern from the previous plans or strategies related to this field.

First: experience

The military operations waged by the Iraqi armed forces against terrorist groups contributed to increasing security awareness related to the fight against terrorism, as the armed forces were able to achieve great victories over these groups since 2003 and were able, due to experience, to rely on accumulated foundations that helped dismantle the operational plans carried out by the groups. terrorist.

The formation of elements of expertise in the field of the war on terrorism, especially after the victory over the terrorist organization ISIS, generated a number of data related to the strategy of combating terrorism, including:

- 1- Growing experience in the field of asymmetric warfare, which had an important field in the counter-terrorism strategy.
- 2- Realizing that intellectual security is a necessary basis for confronting and combating terrorist groups.
- 3- The need to build social awareness to combat terrorism.

These indicators, which are related to the foundations based on experience, have an important place in the Iraqi counter-terrorism strategy, as the formation of the elements of this





experience was based on the long war waged by the armed forces and the practical experience that the counter-terrorism apparatus formed during the war against the terrorist organization ISIS and its reliance on strategies Contemporary and modern tactics of war based on different experiences and merging multiple military plans in order to consolidate victory in this war⁴.

As far as the Counter-Terrorism strategy is concerned, it is difficult to think of the traditional way of confronting terrorist groups because of the way of thinking adopted by terrorist groups, as it was not easy for any military force to continue the asymmetric confrontation without the presence of auxiliary factors in this aspect working to provide moral support. For the fighting elements, especially since the apparatus is in open and direct confrontation with terrorist groups. It is known that most of the special formations in the world allocate their duties to certain tasks, while it is noted that the role of the counter-terrorism apparatus was the main role in the battle, and it moved due to its professionalism many military and security tasks to be on His responsibility, whether in the leadership of joint operations or in decision-making centers, as is the case with the selection of Defense Minister Irfan al-Hayali, who was the director of training and development in the CTS. Which means that the professionalism of the apparatus in the field will move from the level of implementation to the level of decision-making through the formulation of strategies for security institutions⁵.

In comparison with experience, the professionalism in the performance of the ICTS and the armed forces participating in the liberation operations doubled the level of social acceptance in this regard, as the nature of the correlation between the victories achieved by the ICTS over the terrorist organization of ISIS and the popular acceptance in all regions of Iraq in general and the liberated areas In particular, it will contribute to raising





the importance of the agency at the level of security decision-making, as it will increase the aspect of professionalism in making decisions related to this aspect, and this professionalism will increase after completing the basic requirements of the agency to enable it to combat terrorism and eliminate the sleeper cells that establish it⁶.

Second: Reshaping the strategies for the performance of the CTS

One of the pillars on which the Iraqi counter-terrorism strategy relied was the remodeling of the strategies for confrontation in accordance with the principle of the doctrine of combat, which was based on aspects related to the quality of dealing with terrorist groups, which established, in addition to experience, modern and contemporary technologies for the logic of combating terrorism. In the war on terrorist groups, it is noted Iraq was not facing the challenge of terrorist groups as much as it had to be balanced in managing all parties participating in this war. The multiplicity of parties and the contradiction of interests in Syria and Iraq among most of these parties formed complications and contradictions that Iraq had to bear since the beginning of the war. Hence, Iraq's strategy in the field of blitzkrieg war, or as the Germans call it, the lightning war, came in order to organize the various resources of the fighting force, despite the multiplicity and contradiction of its entrances.

As the operations were distributed between what can be secured by the international coalition through air strikes or through airdrops that it carried out, and what can be implemented through the armed forces and the popular crowd through various axes that have achieved a professional image for Iraq in the way of administration. It is noticeable that most of the operations carried out by Iraq against ISIS were not at the level of the strategic mentality that accompanied the operations to liberate Mosul, especially after the Syrian forces announced the start of





operations in Raqqa, where the project of the military depth of the terrorist organization of ISIS crumbled by resorting to the Syrian border areas, especially after the crowd was concentrated Within the Mosul-Raqqa road at the Adayah intersection, perhaps what the National Security Adviser Faleh Al-Fayyad mentioned regarding border protection and the possibility of fighting in some areas of Syria after coordination with the Syrian government constituted an incentive for the decline in coordination levels in the ranks of ISIS, which explains the recent speech of Al-Baghdadi to move to new areas or carry out suicide bombings.

On the basis of this, the ICTS adopted the combat doctrine as a cognitive and basic effort to deal with the challenges facing the tasks of the agency at the level of operations and combat, as well as the prevention and prevention techniques on which the Iraqi counter-terrorism strategy was based. The basic principle on which the strategy was based is based on the fields of knowledge that it is not easy for armed groups to expand without working to develop feelings in the minds of some individuals, as that criterion is linked to a large extent with the extremist approach intellectually, which works to control the orientation of the individuals belonging to it. To these groups, and then the expansion of the level of recruitment and the ability to carry out penetration operations and spread terror among citizens.

The method of confronting violent extremism according to a strategic logic based on intellectual confrontation will help the state overcome the challenges of the expansion of terrorist groups and the weakening of the extremist enemy. Developing a sense of citizenship and civility will enhance the principle of moderation against extremism, in addition to helping decision-makers to weaken the influence of random groups.





Third: moving towards the methodological foundations

One of the pillars of the Counter-Terrorism strategy is that it relied deliberately on systematic methods in terms of the use of experts and academics and highlighting the academic content in the method of formulating the strategy for the purpose of having a common aspect in the scope of its implementation. Iraqi terrorism, which accompanied many of the paragraphs within the drafting and follow-up process, as this will be clarified.

The importance of this focus and thinking about its entries are associated with reasons related to the nature of the strategies adopted by the terrorist organization ISIS on the one hand, and other armed terrorist groups, and by referring to the intellectual significance of savagery, we see that savagery is a word used by (Abu Bakr Naji) to express the state of chaos that will creep into the body of a state What or a specific area if it still has the grip of the ruling authorities, and the author believes that this state of chaos will be “savage” and the local population will suffer from it, so Al Qaeda - which will replace the ruling authorities in preparation for the establishment of (ISIS) - must improve the “management of savagery” to settle things⁷.

The book (**Management of Savagery**) indicates that the process of selecting regions to enter the “Circle of Major Regions”; That is, passing through the stage of “managing savagery” that relied on studies and research “related to current events.” Therefore, he confirms that “after the events of (September 11) and the subsequent developments, the leadership announced some amendments, so it excluded some areas from the group of main areas, provided that they are included to work in The system of the rest of the countries⁸, and two countries were introduced, namely the Land of the Two Holy Mosques and Nigeria, and then the countries that are initially candidates for inclusion in the group of main regions are the regions of the following countries⁹:





Jordan, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Two Holy Mosques, and Yemen. According to this methodology, adopting the scientific methodology in dealing with terrorist groups will have a positive impact on the state's effectiveness in confronting these groups, and this is what made it one of the pillars of the Iraqi strategy in combating terrorism.

The nature of the pillars on which the counter-terrorism strategy was based came for the purpose of enhancing the level of performance and raising the readiness of institutions in dealing with terrorist challenges after the victory over ISIS, which made it characterized by a number of its own criteria in terms of diagnosis and performance in this aspect.

Areas of counter-terrorism strategy in Iraq

After the victory over ISIS, thinking about the strategy of combating terrorism began to take a new form in Iraq based on the adoption of soft power as it helps in combating terrorism and the transition from war to a preventive method.

There are several steps that came to reinforce this trend in the strategy

Academic aspects One of the most important aspects related to the counter-terrorism strategy is to expand the scope of work at the academic levels that help reduce the military effort. terrorism through:

- 1- A scientific conference that includes academic elites from all universities and international participation to expand the deterrence element in the government and security forces against terrorist groups.
- 2- Issuing scientific journals and building awareness and culture against terrorism.
- 3- Holding scientific lectures in partnership with academic institutions.

In addition, there are a number of efforts





- 1- Holding a scientific conference at Al-Nahrain University, College of Political Science, to discuss the strategy of combating terrorism, and there are great efforts to apply new theoretical levels in this field.
- 2- Cooperation between advisors and experts in the Counter-Terrorism Service, academic institutions and research centers.

In the field of prevention of extremism, the strategy to combat terrorism and combat extremism came on an integrated level to adopt soft power;

Soft power in Iraqi strategies

The adoption of soft power in the Iraqi strategy to combat terrorism includes new tools that Iraq will deal with in order to enhance education in building peace, four basic pillars that include the performance of the counter-terrorism apparatus in the field of education to combat terrorism.

- Cooperation with international and local research centers.
- Collaboration with academic elites.
- Cooperation between security and academic institutions.
- Expanding the fields of education and combating extremism in universities.

Strategy Application The Counter-Terrorism Service works alongside other institutions, universities, the National Security Advisory, and education to prevent terrorism, implement the prevention strategy, as well as international cooperation.

It works with organizations that are similar to the Counter-Terrorism Service in the world He works with experts in international institutions.

The next goal is to develop methods of prevention and control. on terrorism in order to prevent the recurrence of terrorist group activity.

In short ICTS according to the Counter-Terrorism strategy aim to apply the modern trends through participation academic





institutions and experts in international institutions. Such as this event for develop the performance against Terrorism.

- Dean of the Faculty of Political Science / Al-Nahrain University
Member of the Committee of Experts in Social Sciences / Iraq.

¹ Preventing violent extremism through education: a guide for policy-makers, UNESCO, 2018.

² Through the electronic link to the Al-Nahrain Center website in Iraq.

³ : The study is posted on the link
:<https://cosqc.gov.iq/html/Patent/cond1.html>

⁴ Suhad Ismail Khalil, Ali Faris Hameed, The Blitzkrieg, Etghrab Journal for Studies, Beladi Center for Strategic Studies, Baghdad, Issue 3, 2017, p. 51

⁵ Ali Faris Hameed, The Art of War and National Security Management: The Anti-Terrorism Apparatus as a Model, a study published on the Future Center for Strategic Studies website, through the link:

<https://www.annabaa.org/arabic/referenceshirazi/12075>

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Suhad Ismail Khalil, Ali Faris Hameed, a previously mentioned source, and also see:

Ali Faris Hameed, Strategic Assessment: Iraq and Managing the War Against the Terrorist Organization of ISIS, Future Center for Strategic Studies, via the link:

<https://www.annabaa.org/arabic/referenceshirazi/8791>

⁸ Staff Lieutenant General Abd al-Wahhab al-Saadi in his interview that was held at the Anti-Terrorism Service conference that was held at Al-Nahrain University.

⁹ For more, see: Abu Bakr Naji, Management of Savagery, Without a Home, Without a History, p. 15

