



Article Type: Research paper

The Future Study of Ethnicity and its Impact on the Security of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Case Study: Arab People)

Hossein Turki¹, *Reza Parsai²

1. Instructor of Special Operations Department, Faculty of Law Enforcement Sciences and Techniques, Amin University of Law Enforcement Sciences, Tehran, Iran

2. Assistant Professor, Faraja Institute of Law Enforcement Sciences and Social Studies, Tehran, Iran

Article Info.

Received: 7/11/2022

Accepted: 17/08/2023

Available Online: 11/09/2023

Abstract

Occasional unrest in the southwestern regions of Iran, especially in Khuzestan and Arab-inhabited regions, requires more attention to issues and developments in this region. In order to predict the country's security situation in the coming years, it is absolutely necessary to pay attention to ethnic situations, opportunities, and challenges. The purpose of this research is to identify the key variables and drivers influencing the ethnic future of the Islamic Republic of Iran, taking into account the southwestern border regions of the country. The future study of factors affecting national security has always been a concern of the rulers and strategists of every political system, because national security is the primary and most important condition for the preservation, survival, progress, and development of any country in all fields. The future is something that governments can design and shape through targeted actions.

Reza Parsai, Ph.D.

Address: Assistant Professor, Faraja Institute of Law Enforcement Sciences and Social Studies, Tehran, Iran

E-mail: Parsa4034@fgr.com

How to Site:

Turki, Hossein, Parsai, Reza. (2023). The future study of ethnicity and its influence on the security of the Islamic Republic of Iran (case study: Arab ethnicity). *Fundamental and Applied Studies of the Islamic World*, 5(2), pp. 1-3.

In order to act wisely, they must have sufficient knowledge and understanding of the consequences of their own actions and those of others. They must also check the reactions of others and forces beyond their control. These consequences will only show themselves in the future in the form of opportunities, threats, and damage. According to the above-mentioned contents, the terrorist attack in Ahvaz on September 22, 2017, the attack on the police station in 2018, the unrest in 2018, and similar actions cannot be considered unrelated to ethnic divergence in this region. Based on this, in order to predict the country's security situation in the coming years and design appropriate security scenarios, it is absolutely necessary to pay attention to the ethnic situation, identify ethnic opportunities and challenges, and in this research, we try to identify trends, drivers, and uncertainties and draw possible scenarios regarding the Arab people using future research methods that will be explained below.

This research is practical in nature and purpose, descriptive-survey in method, and exploratory due to its future-oriented nature. In foresight projects, a set of techniques are often used that complement each other, with the outputs of each technique forming the inputs of the next. For this purpose, to carry out the research, effective factors in the field of Arab ethnocentrism were identified and a list of factors influencing the future study of Arab ethnocentrism was provided in the form of a matrix questionnaire to 15 experts using the environmental monitoring method and review of specialist studies in this field. The experts in this research include professors and specialists of security, political, and social sciences specializing in issues related to the Arab people. The variables and key drivers obtained through the cross-matrix method and using MikMak software were classified and again provided to the experts. The opinions of the experts were analyzed using Scenario Wizard software, and finally, possible and compatible scenarios were identified and extracted.

Among the 28 variables examined in this research, 7 key variables were identified. As can be seen in Table 4, there are two variables in the economic driver (massive oil and gas reserves and underdevelopment), in the cultural driver there are no variables, in the social driver there is one variable (the presence of micro dust), and in the political driver there are four variables (support for Saudi Arabia and the UAE as opponents, the eight-year imposed war, activities of the Wahhabi movement, and regional rivalries). The findings of this research showed that the seven variables of huge oil and gas reserves, underdevelopment, support for Saudi Arabia and the UAE as the opposition, the imposed eight-year war, activities of the Wahhabi movement, the presence of micro dust, and regional rivalries were the key variables extracted from the MicMac soft-

ware. The MicMac software creates future scenarios for the Islamic Republic of Iran in the context of the Arab people.

The results show that 6 challenging scenarios with compatibility and high scores are facing the future of the Islamic Republic of Iran, among which 1 very strong and probable scenario and 5 weak scenarios were obtained. The very strong scenario obtained is the scenario of continuation of the existing trend. Decreases in oil production, the country's economic problems, and darkening relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia are among factors that can lead the future situation of Arabs in Khuzestan from creating opportunities to creating threats related to Iran's national security. The results obtained from the Scenario Wizard software also show that while the strong scenario obtained is the continuation of the existing trend, looking at other scenarios leads to the conclusion that other possible scenarios will continue the existing trend towards a relatively to critically critical situation. This issue has been found and is an alarm for decision-makers in the field of national security. Meanwhile, one should not ignore instrumental surprises and uncertainties. The coronavirus disease, as one of the most important current uncertainties, has disrupted all countries' economic and social equations and led to negative global economic growth. Iran is not exempted from this issue and the coronavirus has greatly impacted its economic situation. Therefore, by making appropriate decisions, relatively and critically critical scenarios should be prevented.

Key words: Arab people, futures studies, opportunities, challenges