Kuwaiti foreign policy in light of the Iraqi invasion, with particular reference to Kuwait’s policy towards Iraq, 1990-2010

Submitted by Talal Z A Alazemi
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I certify that all material in this thesis which is not my own work has been identified and that no material has previously been submitted and approved for the award of a degree by this or any other University.

Signature: Talal Zaid A. Alazemi
Dedication

To my dear country Kuwait,

To the spirit of my late father, may God bless him,

To my dear mother, may God grant her long life,

To my dear wife, children and family,

To the spirit of Kuwait martyrs and prisoners of war.
Acknowledgment

In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful. First and foremost, I sincerely thank Almighty Allah, who created the seven heavens in layers and the earth, the creator of everything, there is no God but Him, for the kindness and blessings that he has given us and bestowed on me, So for You is all praise and unto You all thanks.

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Finally, I pray to Almighty Allah to make this study beneficial and a contribution from my part to all researchers.
Abstract

The study sheds light on the impact of the Iraq invasion of Kuwait in 1990 on Kuwaiti foreign policy, with particular reference to changes in behaviour towards Iraq, from 1990-2010, and the impact of this invasion on changes to the concepts of Kuwaiti foreign policy at regional, Arab and international levels.

Thus, the study investigates the ‘impact’ of this invasion on Kuwaiti foreign behavior towards Iraq during the period from 1990 to 2010, the principles and determinants of Kuwaiti foreign policy towards Iraq in this period, and the ‘outstanding issues’ between Iraq and Kuwait and the Kuwaiti vision for Iraq after the fall of Saddam Hussein’s regime from 2003 until 2010.

It finds that the trauma of the invasion drastically affected both Arab politics overall and Kuwait’s own policy: for the first time the notion of alliance became a cornerstone of Kuwait’s overall foreign policy – even if its geographical location and exposure to possible threats from Iraq meant that, after Saddam’s fall in 2003, there was a gradual evolution towards trying to help a stabilisation in that country occur. The combination of geographical location and ideational factors in the shape of sectarian cleavages crossing domestic and regional theatres, meant a continued sharp focus not only on military security with external help, but also on the pre-emption of spill-over effects from the sectarianised Iraqi political landscape to Kuwait’s own latent ethno-sectarian divisions. Even so, there were certain red lines that remained uncrossed, in the shape of the so-called outstanding issues that remained to be resolved between Iraq and Kuwait.
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List of Abbreviations

Arab League AL
Defence and Economic Co-operation Treaty IDECT
Development Fund for Iraq DFI
Gulf Cooperation Council GCC
Humanitarian Operation Centre HOC
Istanbul Cooperation Initiative ICI
Iraqi Governing Council IGC
Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development KFAED
Kuwait Dinar KD
National Assembly NA
National Committee for M. & POWs Affairs NCMPA
Oil For Food OFF
Operation Iraqi Freedom OIF
Organization of Islamic Conference OIC
Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries OPEC
Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries OAPEC
Palestinian Liberation Organization PLO
United Nations UN
United Nations Security Council UNSC
United Nations Iraq–Kuwait Observation Mission UNIKOM
United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission UNIKBDC
United Nations Compensation Commission UNCC
United Nations Special Commission UNSCOM
United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission UNMOVIC
UN Compensation Fund UNCF
Status of Forces Agreement SOFA
Tripartite Commission TC
Technical Sub-Committee TSC