

Republic of Iraq
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
University of Basrah – College of Arts
Department of History

Arab Cooperation Council

1989 - 1991

(a Historical Study)

A Thesis submitted by

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Abstract

The history of the contemporary Arab countries witnessed many unity experiences; however, as soon they were born they faced factors of weakness and failure. This failure did not only affect the limits of the eliminating the hopes in the Arab unity that was activated by the announcement of these experiments, but also it had its negative impact on the Arab political culture. This has led to the retreat of Arab political unity thoughts even though the Arab world has the factors of integration; the history of its peoples, geographical communication between its regions, the unity of language and culture, values and patterns of behavior, which are not available in any other regional system. All these reasons made it necessary to any Arab movement towards any kind of integration or union to take into account the objective factors that made failure the common factor of the contemporary Arab unity experiences. The beginning was formed in 1945 in the establishment of the League of Arab States, hoping to evolve into a real unity. With the increasing influence of Arab liberation movements in the 1950s, a unity between Egypt and Syria emerged in the form of the United Arab Republic 1958 – 1991. However, it was an experiment that had been overthrown since it was not a contractual unit but an incorporation.

As a result of the emergence of new challenges such as the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war and in order to meet the requirements of the era and the nature of the historical period. A period which featured by regional and international economic coalitions. Hence, the 1980s witnessed the emergence of other Arab unity experiences and regional integration projects in the framework of cooperation and joint Arab action that can confront the regional challenges and international economic formations. However, they have taken a cooperative rather than integrative form, such as the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab Maghreb Union and the Arab Cooperation Council.

This is why this study has chosen the subject of the Arab Cooperation Council (1989-1991) as an important experiment of Arab unity in contemporary history. The aspirations of this experience to promote solidarity and joint Arab action because of its political, economic and social dimensions and sustainable development. Hence the importance of studying the subject, which was not preceded by academic study and scientific research, due to the lack of requirements and conditions of academic research in advance.

In order to give the subject in depth study and analysis, the thesis is divided into an introduction and four chapters and a conclusion. The first chapter includes the variables and motives that led to the establishment of the ACC. The first is the geopolitical importance of the GCC countries, while the second focuses on the motives of the establishment of the ACC. Thirdly, we consider the international economic changes and the Arab unitary experiences that preceded the establishment of the ACC.

The second chapter dealt with the formation of the ACC and the Arab, regional and international reactions. The chapter includes; firstly, the establishment of the ACC, and secondly, the Arab, regional and international reactions,

The third chapter was devoted to study the objectives, organizational structure and decisions of the ACC. The chapter includes; firstly the goals of the ACC, secondly, it deals with the organizational structure of the Council. Thirdly, it addresses the decisions of the ACC through Alexandria Summit, Sana'a Summit and Amman Summit.

Chapter four discusses the position of the ACC countries towards Iraq's invasion of Kuwait 1990-1991. The first was the position of the ACC countries on the political standoff between Iraq and Kuwait until the 2nd August 1990. Second, the position of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan after the invasion of Kuwait. Thirdly, it addresses the position of the Arab Republic of Yemen after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait; fourth, it includes discussing the position of the Arab Republic of Egypt after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Finally, the thesis includes a summary of the most important conclusions reached by the researcher, including; the ACC was featured by the self-benefit and individuality in order to achieve national goals and interests and the absence of serious work to achieve joint Arab cooperation among the leaders of the Council. In addition, nationalism shows differences and contradicted visions and differences in positions, so we see that the Council has not been successful for more than a year and a half. As well as the variation under the governance systems in the ACC.

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