

Capabilities of Pilgrim Diplomacy to Expand Iran-Iraqi Relations

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Iran-Iraqi relations are different with other neighbors. On the one hand, there has been an eight-year war with a historic-border conflict between the two countries. At least the Safavid period, which was part of the Ottoman Iraq, there were dozens of wars between Iran and its western neighbor. Nevertheless, relations between the two countries are not limited to conflicts between them, but there are cross-border and trans-national relations between the people of Iran and Iraq. One example of this kind of relationship is the extensive travel of pilgrims to the religious sites. In the years after the fall of Saddam, millions of Iranians go to Iraq for pilgrimage, and the annual march of the Prophet (PBUH) to the pilgrimage towns of Iraq and their gathering in the Holy Qur'bala, is a turning point in the pilgrimage and diplomacy debate. ; A gathering that has created unity between the Shiites and Sunni, as well as the design of some strategic plans of security for the holy cities of Iraq. Undoubtedly, Iran should continue to emphasize these influential factors if it wants to promote its relations with Iraq today. If Iran had no influence on the various layers of the Iraqi society, including the people, the clergy and the parties, Iran would never succeed in playing a constructive role in Iraq, with the presence of a powerful and decisive nation like the United States. On the other hand, by looking at the concept of a united nation and the Islamic point of view, because of the majority of the Shiites, we should seek the true Shiite government in Iraq.

Keywords : Diplomacy of pilgrimage, Iran, Iraq, united nation, Shiites.

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