

The Impact of Interest Groups in The Presidential and Parliamentary Systems

Raheem Ibraheem Hazzam¹ and Hind Kamel Abd Zaid²

^{1 & 2} Islamic University, Hilla, Babylon, Iraq

ABSTRACT: Interest groups are social groups that are active in democratic political systems by applying pressure on those who hold power in order to take some decisions that guarantee their interests, adopting many methods to achieve this.

The influence of these groups appears to be greater in presidential systems than in parliamentary systems due to the characteristics that characterize these systems, and that there is a fear of the activities of these groups in newly democratic systems in which the application of constitutional legal rules has not been completed, as it is feared of external penetration so that it becomes a means to achieve Its goals are through what foreign countries are doing to employ the protests and demonstrations of these groups.

Keywords: Interest Groups, Political Systems

1. Introduction

Interest groups, with what they represent from societal segments and groups, are considered a mediator between society and those who hold political power according to their relationships and connections with political systems, whether constitutional ones - the parliamentary and presidential system - or authoritarian totalitarian regimes, through the methods and means they adopt with the aim of influencing the official institutions of the system and informal, and then crystallize its demands that it raises that reflect the interests of certain groups in the form of policies and decisions by those institutions.

It is known that these groups move very easily, openly and directly in democratic systems in light of the climates they spread in which political and civil liberties flourish, which indicates that these groups represent one of the manifestations of modern democracy with stable constitutional systems.

The importance of studying the influence of interest groups in constitutional systems through the interest that these groups play and the active role they play on the political system that represents the field in which the state's authority is manifested, and knowing the role of these groups in the recent democratic systems, including the political system in Iraq.

1.1. Research objectives

The problem of the research lies in a central question in this regard: Is the presence of interest groups a necessity in constitutional political systems? And if so, can this necessity be generalized to all systems, including the political system in Iraq after 2005, as it is a new parliamentary political system with a democratic experience? Whether or not it seems so.

The research seeks to define these groups and their methods of work and how they affect the parliamentary and presidential constitutional systems, in addition to shedding light on some exceptions to the nature and seriousness of this influence in the parliamentary political system in Iraq after 2005 AD.

1.2. Research Hypothesis

The presence of interest groups is an indicator of the prosperity of democracy, in addition to the fact that legalizing the work of these groups may prevent financial and political corruption, while it does not appear so, especially in regimes that lack stability in their democratic institutions or are new to the democratic experience; This exacerbates corruption.

1.3. Research Methods

The descriptive, analytical and comparative method was used to highlight the title of the research in order to cover all aspects.

2. Interest groups

Interest groups play a prominent role in the formation of constitutional institutions in democratic systems, especially the legislative and executive authorities in the parliamentary and presidential systems, in addition to their adoption of several other means that affect the functioning and regularity of these two institutions through mobilizing public opinion. The effect is through two demands, as follows:

2.1. The concept and types of interest groups

Although it is difficult to give a comprehensive definition of these groups, it can be said that the term interest groups is applied to every group of people who have permanent or temporary social relations that impose on its members a specific pattern of collective behavior [1].

And that the relations that bind the members of this group may be religious or cultural, and they are united by common goals and interests, and therefore ((interest groups conglomerate a group of members of society brought together by certain ties, class, professional, religious or cultural, and they have common interests and goals they seek to achieve through influence and pressure on the institutions of the political system)) [2].

It is also defined on the basis of the elements of organization and pressure as ((an organization formed to defend interests and to exert pressure on the public authority in order to obtain from it decisions compatible with its endeavors)) [3].

It is understood from this definition that the elements that make up this group are “the organized group, the defense of interests and the exercise of pressure” [4].

It is understood from the foregoing that there is an agreement that this group is a group of individuals governed by specific interests and goals that invite them to exert pressure on the public authority to achieve those interests.

What should be noted is that the goals and interests of this group may go beyond the material aspects to include the moral aspects represented by ideas, principles and values, so that its activity on this basis becomes broader than what is called pressure groups.

The pressure group is defined as ((the group whose activity is limited to putting pressure on decision-makers to achieve its own interests, and thus pressure groups are an integral part of interest groups)) [5].

In addition, the goal of interest groups, which is limited to exerting pressure on the authority in order to achieve its interests, is the incentive that makes them fundamentally different from the political parties whose most important goals are to reach power. However, this does not mean that there is no relationship between this group and the party. The political ((a group of interests may contribute to the arrival of the political party to power)) [6].

As for the types of these groups, there are several criteria to classify them, the most important of which - regarding this research - is the criterion of the goal that you want to achieve. It is classified into the following:

2.1.1. Political interest groups

At the forefront of these groups are the so-called lobbies, such as the Jewish lobby, which uses various means in order to influence the policies of the countries in which it is active, such as the United States of America, to achieve its interests by forcing those countries to take decisions and positions supporting it [7].

It seems that most countries are making great efforts today to create such groups through which they achieve their interests. The United States of America, for example, was and still seeks through the establishment of some civil society organizations, or the establishment of development courses, or the provision of some study fellowships in its own institutes, or the adoption of rights slogans. Man and woman to create such a group, especially in countries that are new to the democratic experience.

This is supported by the fact that the Iraqi parliament voted by a majority of the members on the withdrawal of the American forces, and this was reinforced by the mass rallies that demanded their exit as well, while there are some groups that demand to keep these forces or merely change their

mission; Which raises doubts about the negative effectiveness of these groups in influencing the parliamentary system in Iraq, and the danger also lies in the fact that these groups may not realize that the pressure they exercise is not in line with their legitimate interests.

2.1.2. Economic and financial interest groups

The models of these groups are international companies, major banks and businessmen who have great economic and financial privileges, trying to put pressure on decision-makers in most countries of the world, especially the major countries, by all means in order to secure their interests [8].

2.1.3. Social, professional and humanitarian interest groups:

It includes all organizations, associations and unions that defend the interests of the segments and classes that they represent and their model, as well as associations for the protection of children and women and charities that put pressure on state institutions [9].

2.1.4. Interest groups with intellectual and ideological goals

These groups usually defend principles, ideas and moral values, including human rights groups, United Nations organizations, anti-discrimination associations, as well as religious institutions [10].

It is clear from the foregoing that interest groups are individuals linked with each other and have common interests that they seek to achieve through pressure on the authority, and that these groups vary according to the goals they seek to achieve, through some of the methods that we learn about in the next requirement.

2.2. Mechanisms of influence in constitutional systems

It goes without saying that the methods and means adopted by interest groups in influencing the constitutional systems differ according to the different nature and objectives of each group, in addition to the different objective and historical circumstances in each state and the nature of its political system.

On this basis, constitutional law jurists mentioned three methods practiced by these groups in pursuit of their interests ((The group's interests may influence the making of general legal and political rules to meet specific interests or the exclusion of competing groups, or the establishment of a balance with groups that save it in other decision-slapping positions, and perhaps Ensuring that no decisions and procedures are taken that conflict with its interests) [11] and the most prominent mechanisms of these methods can be summarized as follows:

2.2.1. Direct method

In this method, interest groups initiate contact or direct friction with decision-makers in the political system: members of Parliament, ministers in the executive authority, senior administrators, influential figures in influential parties [12]. This method is based on a number of tools, such as the necessity of having Personal relations that crystallize in the organization of meetings and seminars

between some of those who hold power and representatives of these groups with the aim of discussing issues raised on the corridors of the political arena, in addition to holding consultations and negotiations.

In this way, the group, in which it seeks to convince the competent authority, of the eligibility of its claims, which are usually attached to documents, depends on two ways; The first is the attempt to persuade, while the second lies in the threat ((and the threat is a mechanism adopted by interest groups when they fail to convince the authority of the eligibility of its demands, as the threat takes various forms, for a member of Parliament the threat is manifested not to be re-elected, and for the ministry is to move its loyalists in Parliament to withdraw confidence from the government and bring it down or push it to resign) [13].

2.2.2. Indirect method

Interest groups resort to indirect contact with the authority through the media or resort to strikes and protests, with the aim of pushing the authority to negotiate with the protesters and then achieve its interests.

Here, it must be noted that some civil society organizations that are classified within social, professional and humanitarian interest groups usually rely on this method in order to achieve their interests, and what is strange about these groups is that they may be employed by external parties that finance them with the aim of ensuring their interests that may meet the interests of this group .

The researcher believes that the protests witnessed by the political system in Iraq on 1/10/2019 may come within this framework, which refers to the role played by the United States of America in recruiting many elements within these organizations, titled “civil activist” and “human rights activist”, And in light of its capabilities in managing the crisis, it was able to confiscate the real content of the protests that adopted legitimate demands that meet the public interest and reform the political system, making them a destination that serves its strategic interests in Iraq.

One of the researchers points out in this regard to one of the dangers, saying: ((Some interest groups use deceptive and twisted means and methods not only to influence local public opinion, but even influence global public opinion, by working to falsify facts and direct them in the direction that serves their interests, which is They often use weaknesses to enter through them, for example, that they focus on the feelings and emotions of the masses in order to entice them and direct them in certain directions, in any case serving their issues and interests under the guise of achieving the public interest or the national interest of this or that country” [14].

What has been referred to again is that the chances of success of interest groups in achieving the desired effect in society and the political system depends on the availability of factors of great importance such as the coherent organization and the social relevance of the group and its members, and the extent to which they are able to finance the necessary political action to be carried out

financially and morally, the type of political activity itself, and the extent The ability to coordinate efforts in order to do so [15].

It remains to point out the division of jurisprudence regarding the phenomenon of interest groups, and some jurisprudence sees it as evidence of the spread of corruption in politics as it affects the decision-making process, and therefore the power of money and threats dominate politics in the state, and this is an indication of the decline and decline of democracy that is based on equality in influence. While others see it as a flourishing of democracy, in which the opportunity for various stakeholders is available to defend their interests, and that organizing and legalizing their work prevents financial and political corruption [16].

What the research tends to do is that the presence of these groups and in light of their coordination with the ruling parties that hold power by adopting the direct method of negotiation to achieve their own interests, makes it difficult for them to have a contribution to the advancement of democracy and the reduction of political corruption.

The pressure exerted by these groups may not even be consistent with the constitutional mechanisms in dealing with pivotal political issues in the life of society, for example, the Iraqi constitution in force for the year 200AD talks about two ways to overthrow the executive authority, one of which is executive through a request submitted by the President of the Republic to the President of the Republic to submit a request To the House of Representatives to withdraw confidence from the Prime Minister” [17], and the other is legislative by Parliament” to the House of Representatives at the request of one-fifth of its members to withdraw confidence from the Prime Minister, and this request may not be submitted except after an interrogation directed to the Prime Minister, and after At least seven days after submitting the request [18], while the government was overthrown through protests, and the constitution was not predictable about the mechanism of the transitional government that would pave the way for early elections leading to the formation of a government.

Hence, the researcher believes that the presence of such groups in the constitutional systems newly in democracy, including the political system in Iraq after 2005 AD, poses a threat to the public interest, especially in light of the weak political awareness of individuals and the intersection of interests resulting from social pluralism, and all of this requires the adoption of the concept of Citizenship by the political system.

3. Influence on the presidential and parliamentary systems

The extent of the influence exercised by interest groups depends on the nature of the political system, whether the system is presidential or parliamentary, if it is more effective in the presidential system compared to the parliamentary system because of its characteristics, and this is what we will learn about through these two requirements

3.1. Presidential system

The influence of interest groups is mainly focused on the legislative authority that enacts laws and legislation to work on issuing laws that serve their interests or amending and excluding some of them, as well as exercising influence on the executive authority that makes decisions.

There are some characteristics in the presidential system that make these groups exercise more influence on its powers, including that this system is applied only in republican systems [17], and that the head of government is the president of the republic and the ministers are responsible to him [18], as well as the almost complete separation between institutions [19].

The influence of these groups is manifested by some workers in state institutions (in the United States of America with a presidential system, the endeavors of these groups begin from the moment of nomination for this position, as these groups support by all means the candidate who finds the ability to meet their demands and achieve their interests, and upon his victory, they deliver Letters and telegrams to him calling him not to ratify bills approved by Congress - the House of Representatives and the Senate - in the event that those projects harm the interests of those groups, and in return urge the president to approve projects that serve their interests, and at the same time seek to influence the decisions and policies of the president at the internal levels and external) [20].

The researcher believes that the interest groups in the United States of America, especially after the victory of the Iranian revolution, have become an effective axis in drawing their foreign policy towards the Middle East region in favor of the Israeli occupation state, through the pressure they exert on the president, which was embodied in decisions including the imposition of sanctions on Iran and besieging it economically and making it The scene of an eight-year war and the policy of sanctions against the backdrop of its quest to acquire nuclear weapons, as well as the invasion of Iraq in 2003 AD, the destruction of the state's infrastructure and the undermining of the military institution as well as all other institutions, to opening its borders to terrorist movements and destabilizing its security and stability.

These groups seek to exert their influence in the presidential systems on the House of Representatives, despite its low importance in terms of role and influence compared to the executive authority. To the members of Congress, the Senate and the House of Representatives, regarding the legislation of specific laws that guarantee the interests of these groups, if that information is submitted to the parliamentary committees in the form of regular periodic reports, and the focus is on specific members of the Council and their support in order to defend that information that calls for the issuance of the required legislation" [21].

It is worth noting that there is an influence of these groups on the political system that is embodied through their contribution to crystallizing and shaping the trends of public opinion, and since constitutional political systems derive from the permanence of their survival and continuity in exercising power to the extent of the support they enjoy and the support of public opinion, so these groups follow Various means to mobilize public opinion with the aim of achieving its interests by

pushing public opinion to exert pressure on the institutions of the legislative and executive system [22].

As groups use and employ all their financial and non-financial capabilities to influence public opinion, mobilize and direct it, through holding seminars and orientations, and employing audio, visual and print media, and it reaches its climax in the electoral campaign stage in order to push the largest number of voters to vote for a certain relative or certain individuals. Their access to power guarantees the realization of the interests of these groups [23].

In addition, it mobilizes public opinion to engage in demonstrations and protests, which constitutes a tool of pressure on the legislative and executive authorities to meet certain demands that these groups achieve.

Therefore, these groups exercise their influence on the legislative and executive authorities in the presidential system, in addition to mobilizing public opinion in order to achieve their interests and goals.

3.2. Parliamentary system

There are characteristics that distinguish the parliamentary system, including the possibility that this system can be a monarchy or a republic, and although the emergence of this system was in a monarchical state, Britain, it witnessed a series of developments that transformed from an absolute monarchy in which the king acquired the three powers to a restricted monarchy in which the actual power became in the hands of Parliament [24].

And also the duality of the executive authority, which is divided between the Presidency of the State and the government, the responsibility before Parliament [25] and the assignment of important powers to Parliament [26] and the flexible separation that is based on a balance between the legislative and executive powers, as each of them has been provided with a weapon that prevents the abuse of the other [27].

Interest groups usually focus on the legislative authority in parliamentary systems against the background of the great role that this authority plays, which assumes the function of legislating laws, in addition to being the mother institution from which all other institutions emerge. The government as well as giving it confidence in the government and oversight over it to the point of holding it accountable, bringing it down and withholding confidence in it.

Hence, these groups begin to exercise their influence on this authority and in various ways starting from the electoral process (The interest groups provide material assistance in the electoral campaigns to some candidates in order to deliver individuals loyal to them or those who are trusted and who have the power to take into account their interests and achieve their ambitions and goals) [28].

Its lowest interests may be to push this authority to issue, amend or cancel some legislation that meets its interests, as well as the possibility of it amending some clauses and articles of the constitution or even formulating a new constitution in line with its ambitions.

Perhaps the simplest examples of this in Iraq are the legislation of the general amnesty law, and the amendment of the de-Baathification law.

These groups continue to put pressure on the legislative authority in the process of selecting a president and forming a government, and perhaps most dangerously, it pushed them to withdraw confidence from the government if its policies do not meet its interests or hinder its activities in an effort to form a government that is more responsive to its ambitions and interests.

The researcher believes that the danger sometimes lies in the fact that these groups are infiltrated by foreign parties that push them to pressure to overthrow this or that government, especially since interest groups and in order to achieve some goals resort to cooperation with other groups or some political parties [29]. Which calls for reservations about the necessity of the presence of such groups in the new democratic political systems for fear of penetration and unconscious action in prejudice to the public interest.

Some researchers [30] indicate that this cooperation between interest groups and political parties may be temporary because it is about a specific issue, and if that cooperation is achieved, while the mentioned cooperation may always be like cooperation between the Confederation of British Industry and the Conservative Party, while the party pledges With the support of the Union, the Union pledges to provide all forms of assistance and support to the parties.

And since the parliamentary system of dual executive power has a president and a cabinet, interest groups begin their movement towards individuals who have greater opportunities than others to assume these two positions, the presidency and the ministers, with a focus on the latter being the actual executive official in this system, as various means are adopted to co-opt him since the initiation of His electoral campaign, passing through his assignment, ending with putting pressure on her at the stage of submitting draft laws that fall within the scope of its powers to the legislative authority so that they keep in mind the interest of the community [31].

Since the draft laws presented by the Council of Ministers are sent to the President of the Republic for approval, some of these projects may intersect with the interests of the group, which makes it exert some pressure to object to it with the aim of obstructing its issuance, amending or canceling it [32].

Conclusion

Jurists of constitutional law and political systems classify interest groups of all kinds and the goals they seek to achieve as one of the most important informal institutions of democratic political systems. Making some difficult decisions or implementing a particular policy.

The research reached a number of conclusions, most notably.

- 1- The division of jurisprudence in evaluating interest groups in political systems between supporters who see it as a healthy phenomenon that indicates democracy and the effectiveness of the system, and opponents who believe that it is a cause of political corruption and a decline in democracy.
- 2- There is a reservation about this phenomenon in the newly democratic regimes that suffer from weak political awareness among the public, including the political system in Iraq after 2003 AD. There is fear for democratic practice, in addition to fear for the constitutional document.
- 3- This group exerts a great influence on the political system through the pressure it exerts on the legislative and executive authority, especially in the presidential and parliamentary system, in addition to its influence on public opinion and its mobilization in elections to reach power and form a political system that guarantees its interests and goals.
- 4- Interest groups may set out to organize protests and sit-ins as an effective means of putting pressure on the authority in order to achieve its interests, but the lack of awareness and organization and the search for support sometimes make it work to achieve the interests of foreign countries that have many means that enable them to penetrate those protests.

Recommendations

The research concluded in the light of its conclusions, to some recommendations, most notably:

1. The necessity of codifying the mechanisms and means for the influence of interest groups on the constitutional systems in a way that prevents them from going beyond the issue of legitimacy at work.
2. Political interest groups are an unhealthy phenomenon that should be contained in constitutional systems that are new to democracy because of the danger they pose to democracy and adherence to the provisions of the constitution, and among these systems is the parliamentary system in Iraq after 2005.
3. The necessity of activating the means of political upbringing that would advance the political culture of society in order to miss the opportunity for foreign interventions that try to invest in the protests to achieve their national interests.

References

1. Dr. Sadiq Al-Aswad: The Political Meeting, Mosul University Press, 1980, p. 355.
2. Sami Gamal El-Din: Political Systems and Constitutional Law, Mansha'at Al-Maaref, Alexandria, 1, 2005, p. 78.
3. Jan Mito: Pressure Groups, translated by Bahij Shaaban, Oweidat Publications, 1971, p. 10.
4. Dr. Khader Khader: Basic Concepts in Political Science, The Modern Book Foundation, Beirut, 1, 2008.
5. Kamal Al-Menoufy: The Origins of Comparative Political Systems, Al-Rayyan Publishing and Distribution Company, Kuwait, 1, 1987, p. 10.
6. Sam Suleiman Dallah: Principles of Constitutional Law and Political Systems, Aleppo University Publications, Aleppo, 1, 2002, p. 360.
7. Ihsan Muhammad Al-Hassan: Political Sociology, Mosul University Press, 1, 1984, p. 181.
8. Suad Al-Sharqawi: Contemporary Political Systems, Cairo University, Cairo, 2007, p. 254.
9. Majed Al-Helou: Political Systems and Constitutional Law, Mansha'at Al-Maaref, Cairo, 2nd Edition, 2000, p. 30.
10. Gabriel Elmond: Comparative Politics in Our Contemporary Time, World View, Translated by: Hisham Abdullah, Reviewed by: Samir Nassar, National House for Publishing and Distribution, Jordan, 1997, p. 62.
11. Maurice Duverger: Les partise politiques et et droit cons, 5 eme ed, Paris, 1972, p15.
12. Issam Al-Debs: Political Systems, House of Culture, Amman, 2010, p. 324.
13. Dr. Ahmed Al-Jubeir: Principles of Political Science, House of Culture, Amman, 2010, p. 324
14. Dr. Taha Hamid Al-Anbaki: Contemporary Political and Constitutional Systems, Dar Al-Kutub, Baghdad, 2018, p. 182.
15. Jones, An Introduction to the study of public policy, Lnded North scituate, MA, Durbury, 1975, p-53.
16. Dr. Muhammad Taha Al-Husseini: Political Systems, Dar Al-Salaam Legal Library, Beirut, 1st Edition, 2016, p. 231
17. The Iraqi Constitution in force for the year 2005: Article 61/eighth/b/1
18. Same source: Article 61/eighth/b/2
19. Daabed El-Ghani Bassiouni: Political Systems and Constitutional Law, Dar El-Gamaa for Printing and Publishing, Cairo, 1, 1992, p. 261.
20. Mohsen Khalil: Political Systems and the Lebanese Constitution, Beirut, 1, 1979, p. 395.
21. Dr. Numan Ahmed Al-Khatib: The Mediator in Political Systems and Constitutional Law, House of Culture, Amman, 2009, p. 365.
22. Dr. Muhammad Taha Al-Husseini, previous source, p. 233.
23. Esmat Abdullah Al-Sheikh: Political Systems, Helwan University, Faculty of Law, 2nd Edition, 1999, p. 18.
24. Kamal Al-Manoufi: Theories of Political Systems, Agency for Publications, Kuwait, 5th Edition, 1985, p. 68.
25. Dr. Taha Hamid Al-Anbaki, a previous source, 189.

26. Seen Dr. Hassan Shafiq Al-Ani: Comparative Political and Constitutional Systems, Al-Atak Book Industry, Cairo, 2007, p. 57.
27. Dr. Salih Jawad Kazim: Political Systems, Baghdad University Press, 1991, p. 61.
28. Dr. Numan Ahmed Al-Khatib: The Mediator in Political Systems and Constitutional Law, previous source, p. 65
29. Dr. Shamran Hammadi: Political Systems, National Printing and Publishing Company, Baghdad, Vol. 1, 1970, p. 34.
30. Dr. Khader Khader: Basic Concepts in Political Science, previous source, p. 307
31. Kamal al-Mutwi: The Origins of Comparative Political Systems, Al Rayan Company, for Publishing and Distribution, Kuwait, 1, 1987, p. 178.
32. Dr. Suad Al-Sharqawi: Contemporary Political Systems, previous source, p. 233