Precariousnesses of Regional Instability on the Arab Tourism (2011-2016)

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Abstract: The study aims at discussing the significance of the tourist sector in the Arab Region in propping the Arab States economy and the most important impacts of the regional instability state on the reality of the Arab Tourism. The study had depended on the descriptive analytical method and the method of international systems in studying impacts of regional instability as a variable on the Arab tourist reality. The study had deduced a group of results, indicated that tourism sector is one of the important sectors, that are included within the significance of the Arab economy, it was the period extended from (2011-2016) of the critical periods, that led to rising unstable conditions of wars and terrorist actions had damaged the tourism sector at the level of tourists number and at the level of hotel sector and other sectors, at the level of damaging, destructing, hierarchical and cultural properties.

Key words: Stability - Regional Variables - Tourism and the Arab Region

INTRODUCTION

The Arab Region witnessed, since what exceeds a century of time periods of political instability and connected the nature of the region and the condition of the Western competition. Since the Western colonialism and the Arab- Israeli conflict, crises of the Arab Gulf, the American war against terrorism, to crises of the Arab Spring, the Arab Region passed conditions of instability, where it played a big role in impacting the political, economic and social regimes, reflected on their reality and plans of economic development, so the movement of tourism was affected, that forms an important support to the Arab States economy and an important center of attraction in it.

The Arab tourist sector forms the important sectors, upon which the Arab states depend in supporting their economy and in supporting its developmental trends. For the Arab region is considered a distinguished region in the tourist sites, that reflect the nature of human civilizations that were consecutive on it in different historical periods. But the political conditions, in which the region passed and what accompanied it of incidents and occurrences, impacted the Arab tourists sector. The impacts of that were comprehensive, for what connects the Arab states of mutual characteristics.

The political stability forms the factors that achieve true attraction for the movement of humans transference whatever were the drives and causes, for man by his nature searches for security and stability and abandons sources of threatening, fear and violence. From here the instruments of attraction to polarize the individuals for the most stable and peaceful territories, other than the policies to which the states resorted in achieving their objectives on levels of attracting investments and activating the tourist attraction at the level of populating and demographic change.

For more than six years and since the year 2011 the Arab region suffers a case of political instability, the matter that had its Precariousnesses at the different levels, especially the Arab tourist sector, where the case of the regional instability and what resulted in from precariousnesses of wars, human refuging, terrorism and extremism, led to decline the return of the Arab tourism as one of sectors that support economy of the Arab States.

From this point came the study to observe the impact of instability condition reality at the Arab region and its effect on the Arab tourism.

Objectives of study: the study aims at recognizing the concept of regional stability on the nature and reality of the Arab tourism and the most important challenges, in which it passes at the present period in light of the case

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of instability within the level of the internal and regional environment, which the region witnessed a great deal since the year 2011 till the present period. In addition to recognizing the significance of the tourist sector in supporting the economy of the Arab States and the extent of reflection of that in achieving the alternatives of the political and economic development.

**Significance of Study:** This study is considered from the important studies that discuss in the nature of the relationship between the political determinant and its effect on the tourist and economic sector, through studying the political stability indicator and impact of this indicator in the sector of Arab tourism, in addition to observing the most important political variables that the Arab region witnessed in the extended period from (2011-2016) and connecting them with what they caused of impacts and changes in the reality of the region at the economic and political level and the reflection of that on the different sectors inside those states, especially the tourist sector.

**Problem of Study:** The tourism sector in the Arab region forms the vital and important sectors, upon which the Arab States depend in propping their economy. The labyrinth of political stability in the region had formed the most prominent challenges that became confronting those states. And in light of talking about the region obtaining interest relations, both in his country or a foreign country, on purpose of the tourist attraction constituents with what they include of antiquities and historical locations and what for the civilization and historical dimensions.

The matter that excites with it an essential question: What are the limits of the case of regional instability impact in the reality of the Arab tourism? And was the tourism sector in the Arab States, in which crises of the Arab Spring did not occur, affected at a great form?

**Methodology of Study:** The study depends a great deal on the descriptive analytical method in observing and studying the reality of the Arab region in the extended period from (2011-2016) and its impact on the reality of the Arab tourism, in light of studying the condition of political instability in the region and its reflections.

And the study will depend on analyzing the international systems by Mortoun Kaplan and impacts of international variables on the regional regimes, where the variable of instability condition forms effective variables on stability in the regional regimes. So the Arab region is a regional regime was affected in the extended period from (2011-2016) with what is called the wave of the Arab Spring, led to rising the influence of the political instability condition in many of the Arab States, that was reflected on the tourism sector in the Arab States at a great deal.

**Terms of Study:** Regional Variables: it is looked to the variable as it is the condition, or the attribute connected with a relationship among a group of factors that lead to occurring an activity, or a case of interaction in a cooperative or conflictive context. And there is a firm variable, independent and mediator in the scientific research, connected with nature of the attribute or the case and relationship among parties and what outcomes on it of impacts. So, the international variables are a group of the political, economic, social, cultural, military and technological characteristics that determine the nature of relations among the international effective and patterns of distributing power inside the World Order. And the regional variables are the nature of political, economic, social, cultural, military, technological and ideological characteristics, that determine the nature of the relationship and patterns of distributing power among the regional effectives. And according to the regional variable either it was military, security, political, ideological, or economic it can determine the nature of one of the regional parties and reflection of that on the nature of issues and regional incidents in the context of power and interest relations [1].

**Political Stability:** It is the extent of the political system ability to invest the circumstances and ability of dealing successfully with crises to absorb conflicts that prevail inside the community, together with non-using violence in it, because violence is one of the most important phenomena of political instability and political stability a matter for which nations and peoples seek; because it makes the sphere and environment, necessary for security, development and prosperity available [2].

**Tourism:** Tourism is known as it is man’s travel, travelling or doing a tour to temporarily reside and for a limited period at another place far from his original residence, either in his country or a foreign country, on purpose of mental or physical recreation. Affected by factors, such as communications, personal income, culture and education, location, nature of infrastructure and the tourist milestones and it is distinguished that it is a service sector, forming a main source of the state national income and connected with different types, of them (tourist, cultural, religious, social, remedial and natural…..etc) [3].
Previous Studies: There are a group of previous studies that will be tackled as follows:

- Ilham Khdeir’s Study “Crisis of Terrorism and future of Tourism”. The study discusses the talk about the concept of terrorism and the most important of its different sides and about reality of tourist environment and its relationship with terrorism and how to confront terrorism and future of tourism in the shadow of the growing of the terrorism phenomenon.

- Radwan Al-Majali’s study “Impact of Regional Variables on the Arab Tourism”. The study tackles the most important affections affecting the Arab tourism in the stage of the Arab Spring and what caused of the condition of instability in some Arab countries led to emerging unstable conditions, shared in declining the level of tourism at those states. The study deduced the significance of the Arab Tourism sector in propping the Arab States economy and that the terrorist operations became one of the most important factors that led to retreat of tourism movement.

- Amira Mohammad’s study “precariousness of the Terrorist Phenomenon Growth on Tourism in Egypt after Revolutions of the Arab Spring”. The study deals with the talk about the most important terrorist threatening that faced Egypt since the year 2010 and their precariousnesses on the sector of Egyptian tourism and the most important machineries to confront the phenomenon of terrorism in Egypt at security, intellectual and regional cooperation sides.

Firstly: Tourism and Development: Tourism is considered from the significant sectors, that play a role in achieving the economic and social development, where it developed and its significance increased together with the marketing media development, institutes and specialized universities in tourism and archeology and hotels, in addition to studies, books and periodicals concerned with tourist work, where the role of tourism appears in achieving development through the following [4]:

- Encouraging different investments that enter in tourism sector.
- A source of the national income sources, that enhances the balance of payments and saves labor opportunities, the matter that leads to improvement of social and living standard of the citizen.
- One of elements activating the economic and commercial activity inside the state and one of the factors that approach cooperation among peoples and spread culture among them.
- One of the important sources in acquiring the foreign currencies and a means of decreasing the rate of inflation.
- Encourages marketing of the local products and enhances penetrating them into the external markets.

From here we find that tourism shares in enhancing states’ economy and works on treating the problems faced by states at the economic and social level, to form one of the important instruments in achieving development, the matter that is mainly reflected in enhancing the political stability inside the state, meanwhile on the other side in condition of regional and internal instability is from the obstacles that face the economic and social development, that is by affecting the vital sectors, that greatly depend on stability, this what rises in the relationship among stability, tourism and development.

In return for that there is a close relationship between tourism and political stability appears through the following [5]:

- The condition of stability leads to founding an attractive environment of investments and to enhance the infrastructure and economic and tourist utilities inside the state.
- Enhancing the significance of tourism industry and the other industries connected with it.
- Activating the means of communication and different transportations and activating the movement of transportation among the different territories.
- Enhancing and developing the technology and technicalities that can be used in the tourist activities and the archeological territories.
- Increase numbers of workers in the tourist and hotel sector.
The political stability is also reflected at a great deal on the nature and stability of political regimes and on the international relations, where the condition of political instability in the Arab region and the change of many of the political regimes formed a condition of political instability in those states and to a change in the shape of international relations and increase of external interventions sharpness, the matter that resulted in unstable security conditions and to spread of terrorism and extremism, the thing that had a great impact in the stability of the region and what resulted in of different precariousnesses.

Thirdly: Condition of Regional Instability: The Arab region witnessed numerous crises and changes, that affected all domains at a great deal, either that was in the states that were exposed to political and economic crises, or in the adjacent states, for these crises express the bad conditions of states that are exposed to them, it also represents regional variables for the neighboring states [11].

Also the social, the international disorders and contradictions and sensitivities between some Arab regimes, penetrations and regional and international competitions in the Arab region made most of the population of the Arab region lives in a condition of instability, in addition to that the Arab region in general faced four aggressive wars, waged by Israel on the Arab peoples in the years (1948, 1956, 1967 and 1973) [11].

These factors all indicate that the Arab region formed an unstable area for what it had distinguished of wars, revolutions and instability, especially the correspondent Arab States to Israel, the thing that led to exhaust these states and attrition of their limited economic resources and as a consequence of circumstances and international, regional and internal interaction, the political, economic and social stability is a true labyrinth in the Arab region.

In return for that, it is naturally considering the political stability for any state is an expression of will of this country and its political leadership and product of internal and external factors that affect in its internal and external political stability and specifying its political trend in its relations with states and international organizations and their decisions in accordance with changing local and regional circumstances [11].

In the same context the spark of what is called the “Arab Spring”- started in the Arab region- and they are peaceful protesting movements started in different Arab States since endings of the year 2010 and commencement of the year 2011 call for changing the political regimes and

- Corresponding Author: Hamzah Ismael Abu Shrea, The World Islamic Sciences & Education University Increase numbers of tourist delegations.

Secondly: Concept of Political Stability and its Significance: Political stability is viewed from the most important primary probes upon which the political regime depends in the movement of its development and continuation, where plenty of intellectual curriculums tackled it, such as systems analysis method and method of occupational constructivism…etc. [6].

(David Easton) in his definition of political stability in accordance with the method of systems analyzing views that “ability to adaptation with changing circumstances and conditions and ability to control change and tyrannize over it” [7].

Due to what preceded David Easton in his definition of stability connects between political stability and the degree of social change and its unity in the community, for stability usually is connected with the slow type of change, that does not create sudden and swift shakings in the social relations, meanwhile the sudden and swift change leads to appearance of forms of instability at any community [7].

(Lucien Pye) views that it is “connected with ability to occur the directed change, it also includes appropriateness and adaptation with the changing circumstances, that it is connected with the governed change, that aims at stuffing basic needs of the greatest number of individuals [7, 8].

So, the role of the political regime in achieving the political stability conceals in the policies taken by the political elite, that aims towards achieving a great deal of cooperation relations among members of the ruling elite in between them from a part and supporting their relations by individuals of the community from the other part and to remove all causes of conflict, or social violence [8, 9].

In addition to what preceded, the political stability and case of political instability both work to increase the significance of economic dimension in achieving development that is performed by the state and its impact on the political regime and on the possibility of attracting investments. For the political stability contains a stability in the government, the international and external conflict, distribution and ethnic partition and impact of all that on the political institutions depending on the extent of their strength or weakness [10]. The political stability also achieves a tourist attraction point to the states and a cross point to the individuals and their residence, for what it achieves an important dimension of security, the matter that is reflected on other sectors.
achieving the economic reforms at the different sides of life. “The Arab Spring formed a great historical transformation stage, the Arab region witnessed starting from Tunisia then Egypt, Libya, Yemen and Syria, resulted from its political and economic different conditions from their precedent and appearance of a case of disorder and political instability, started in the Tunisian revolution at the endings of the year 2010 and the beginning of the year 2011, dethroned the previous President Zein Al-A’bideen Bin Ali as a result of Mohammad Al-Booizezi’s burning himself, because of his economic conditions, so the causes of the Tunisian Revolution started, because of corruption, economic stagnation, poverty, unemployment and the security and the political tightening [12].

There is a group of causes led to the start of the Spring Spark and formed an incentive to the Arab peoples to get out in demonstrations to express their rejection of the action Arab regimes policies and they appear in political, economic and social causes [13]:

- Absence of democratic regime, the matter upon which, the absence of freedom, rights and political multitude and non-existence of power rotation, political participation and absence of law sovereignty.
- Absence of wealth distribution justice, economic annotation, poverty, unemployment, decline of standard of living and prices rise.
- Disappearance of the middle class and spread of twofold class pattern (rich class and poor class), for the Arab world became divided into twofold categories, rich and poor people, educated and uneducated people, rightists and leftists, secularists and strictests… and so on.
- Spread of globalization and its impacts on the Arab communities at a negative form, where it led to weakening the cultural and the Arab valuable constituent and subrogation of the western culture, the matter that discharged with it negative patterns and behavior, shared in increasing the cultural, social, economic and political problems.
- Impact of means of communications and information technology, spread of astronautics and means of Internet from instruments of social communication (facebook and whatsapp…) and else, that affected the category of the Arab Youth and pushed them to make their Arab Spring, the matter that the traditional Arab regimes could not face this new media thinking.
- Spread of frustration, despondence and grumbling in the Arab communities as a result of failure in achieving development and exacerbation of problems and crises and domination of powers of capitalism inside the community and their obsession on advantages and profits on the expense of the rest of the community categories.
- Weakness and flabbiness of educated elites and Arab intellectuals, that cold not create an intellectual structure achieves aspirations of the Arab communities.

Fourthly: Precariousnesses of Regional Instability in the Arab Region: The Arab region was distinguished for internal crises, appeared in the nature of the relationship among the citizens of those states and the political power, for the security factor and political stability, was built on political and security instruments, so the intellectual capacity of security threatening was in increasing the internal and external danger within higher levels, its sharpness increased with the advent of the Arab Spring, so the opportunities of political stability increased, the thing that led to emerge conditions and variables on the different levels and they had precariousnesses on the region, where it can be observed as follows [13]:

- The case of the regional instability led to appearance of what is called failure states that did not achieve democracy and lost security and stability and absence of the institutions framework, so led to disturbances in the form of the political power.
- Increase of international and regional threat rate of the Arab region.
- Weakness of the regional Arab role from the Arab axis role: Egypt, Saudi and increase of the size of external interventions: Iran and Turkey intervention in the Arab States and interventions of USA and Russia.
- Deterioration of Arab Relations.
- Weakening the Arab permanents and concept of Arab resistance and opposition. Because of establishing a case of untrusting and confusion of balance in the system of the Arab national dimension.
- Weakness of dealing with the Arab issues (like Palestine Issue) and preoccupation in other issues.
- Emergence of bad economic conditions of unemployment and poverty in the shadow of the retreat of the commercial activity and the tumbling of the tourism sector and services and the region preoccupation in permanent wars. Emergence of unstable social conditions.
Control of external powers of the region resources and of its civilization and historical heritage, where the terrorist organization of Dai’sh could occupy oil location in Iraq, Syria and Libya and export to different directions and work on destroying the historical archaeologies of Iraq and Syria.

Evacuation of the region from its population and immigrate them, the matter that results in the possibility of dividing the region into a new Sieks-Beco.

Affection of the world states, especially the states of regional neighborhood to refugees issue and emergence of unlawful emigration issues and the crossing borders international terrorism.

Case of instability in the Arab region made it an attraction area of all movements and extreme trends and transference of all individuals with extreme inclinations to join the terrorist organization, Dai’sh.

Fifthly: Case of Regional Instability Impacts on the Reality Of Arab Tourism: Tourism forms the most important economic and social sectors in the world and a true support in achieving economic development and a domain of development for the state, that it achieves for the state a source of the national income and an important domain of labor and employment and a source of gaining the foreign currencies for the state and developing the services, industry and hotels sectors. In return for that tourism is considered one of the most sensitive sectors in being influenced by incidents and the surety and political economic circumstances and decline of tourism conditions, that is security and stability both are the most tourist attractive factors [14].

The Arab region had formed in the tourist geography dimension and the civilization historical dimension a tourist attraction area for the different states of the world, for what it enjoys of abundant constituents shared in polarizing millions of tourists to the Arab region yearly, but the case of regional instability formed an effective and important dimension in affecting the reality of the Arab tourism and continuation of tourist attraction to the region, the thing that formed a challenge to the handful of political and economic challenges that face the Arab States.

The period of the Arab Spring formed a case of regional instability that impacted the states of the region, which pushed many tourists in the world to areas and other tourist resorts more attractive and stable in the world.

The Arab Spring struck the tourism sector in the Arab States, that forms the most important resources of their national income, in addition to damages of many of the economic and social sectors connected with them. That can be observed as follows:

- Impact of economic system, that depends on tourism in increasing the national income of the state and an encouraging factor in activating the different economic sectors inside the state and works to encourage and develop hotels, restaurants and means of transportation…etc. And works to develop the balance of payments and making labor opportunities available and saving currencies for the state, improving the infrastructure and developing education and health sectors….etc [15]. Corresponding to that the regional led to impact of the Arab economic sectors as result of numbers of tourists’ decline, the thing that led to impact of tourist and travel companies, flight movement and impact of different sectors inside the Arab region, such as the hotel and tourist restaurants sector.

- Decline of tourists number from Arabs and foreigners in the Arab territories and tourist locations and their escape to the tourist territories outside the region, for aiming terrorism and extremity in many of the Arab States as in Tunisia and Egypt.

- Influence of the Arab social reality with what occurs of the case of political instability in the region, for the economic circumstances and decline of tourism returns to dismissal many of employees in tourism and hotels sectors, the matter upon which resulted difficult social conditions of poverty, unemployment and decline of living standard, crime and divorce….etc.

- Destructing the infrastructure, the archeological and the cultural locations, museums and archaeologies and this is of the most prominent precariousnesses of regional instability, where war in Yemen, Syria and Iraq formed opportunity for the extremist groups in aiming the civilization constituent of those sates and resorts of tourist attraction in them (the Arab tourism in time of the Arab Spring Al-Yamamah Journal, Riyadh, June 16th, [16]).

- Warnings of Western States and USA of their citizens continuously of non-travelling to the Arab region, the matter that resulted in decline of foreign tourists numbers.
• Warnings of repeated western media means of travel to the Arab region and attempt of connecting what occurs of terrorist actions in the world with the Arabs and Muslims, as an attempt of striking the Arab tourism and encouragement of tourism to outside the Arab region.

Sixthly: Reality of the Arab Tourism in States of the Arab Spring: The case of regional instability in states of the Arab Spring had led to damaging the tourism sector at a great deal. That can be observed as follows (The Arab Tourism in time of the Arab Spring Al-Yamamah Journal, Riyadh, June 16th, 2013).

• The crisis in Yemen had led since the year 2011 to absence of security and stability in it, the matter in which it lost an important tourist attraction area for the most famous tourist territories in it, the thing that negatively was reflected on the other sectors of hotels and sectors of industry and the popular products, that caused great losses in the Yemeni economy and the private sector.

• Incidents of the July 25th, 2011 revolution and incidents of January 30th, 2013 led to strike the Egyptian tourism and attempt of targeting the archeological and tourist places, especially the National Museum, Al-Qosor and Sharm Al-Sheikh… etc. Numbers of coming tourists to Egypt as a result of internal disorders had decreased, the thing led to retreat returns of tourism sector and its impact on the rest of other sectors, the matter that increased the problems and disturbances of the Egyptian economy, that yearly depends on an income amounts to (12-15) milliard dollars yearly from tourism sector- can be confined to the Egyptian tourism sector as follows [17]:

  • Threatening and terrorist operations since the year 2010 till the present period.
  • Targeting the army forces and the Egyptian police and targeting the infrastructure of the state, (the economic and private commercial companies and targeting the tourist places and hotels and targeting judges and courts).
  • Decline of coming tourist delegations numbers to Egypt as a result of (fear from occurrence of terrorist activities and targeting the terrorist operations of tourist territories).
  • Retreat of tourism returns at rate of %66 in the year 2016 and retreat of the size of employment in the tourist sector and retreat of hotel booking rate to %30 in the year 2015.

• Tunisia enjoys tourist and excellent geographic constituents, where tourism forms a rate of %20 of Tunisia’s yearly returns and employing more than half million Tunisians and a million in other sectors connected with the tourist sector, but the incidents of the Tunisian Revolution 2010/2011 started affecting Tunisia by decline of the tourist sector returns. That increased after terrorism and extremism striking the tourist locations in different Tunisian territories and increased targeting embassies, museums, hotels and tourist shores, the thing that led to affection of hotels, restaurants and traditional industries movement, which had been affected in the shadow of ‘Emergency Law’. So, Soosah and Bardou’s incidents and else of incidents formed retreat in tourists numbers, especially the Europeans, the thing that affected negatively the Tunisian economy a great deal [18].

• Also tourism in Syria was affected, it was a target to the Gulf States and the neighboring States, the Syrian crisis and what resulted from it of precariousnesses, because of the most harmed states in the tourist sector, for Syria had been a peaceful area, the matter that resulted in the Syrian case had never been only a crisis, but an armed conflict, led of affection of all sectors, decline and lowing the economic activities and industries and destruction of the infrastructure and targeting the historical and archeological locations. It did not remain a target to attract tourism, so the hotels and restaurants sectors, tourism and travel agencies and flight movement had been affected.

From here we find that the Arab States affected by the Arab Spring (Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen and Syria…etc), had shared the unstable conditions in them and increase of terrorist attacks led to decline of numbers of the coming tourists from all over the world, the matter that negatively reflected on the hotels sector and other sector, the thing that led to increase of unemployment, increase of inflation, decline of foreign currencies, increase of shortage in balance of payments and weakness of commercial and economical activity, the thing created economic and social problems at those states and also reflected on other states (like Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Algeria) that had been affected by the regional instability in the decrease of tourists numbers, because of their fear from the emerging disturbances in the region and dangers of terrorism and extremism [13].
CONCLUSION

Tourism had formed one of the important Arab sectors, that played a role in supporting the Arab economy wheel, achieving economic development and an encouraging source of the other activities, but from the most prominent challenges that they face is the case of regional instability, which had not been at a certain period, but it is committed to different historical periods of conflicts, wars and crises. The period of the Arab Spring had the role and the great impact with which the case of regional instability continued since the year 2011 till the present time, the matter resulted in a group of precariousnesses touched the stability of political regimes and increased their crises, the thing that led to affection of different sectors inside those states, especially the tourism sector.

The case of regional instability had led to decline the results of the Arab tourist sector, the sectors of hotels, restaurants and tourist industries were affected, decline of tourists numbers, emigration of the Arab tourists from the Arab attraction areas to western attraction areas, impact of economic systems, so unemployment and poverty increased, weakness of tourist marketing ability to achieve the element of attraction, spread of social problems and phenomena of crime, divorce and corruption....etc. and affection of travel and tourism agents’ sectors, of light movement and sector of education and health, …etc.

Also emergence of terrorism and extremism issues became one of the issues that increased affection of the Arab Tourism, through targeting the tourist places and territories by the extremist groups and attempt of connecting what occurs of terrorism in the world with the Arabs and Muslims, the thing that affects the movement of attracting tourists to the Arab region and fear of the case of regional instability.

Recommendations of Study: The study recommends the following:

- Concluding conferences and international symposiums to tackle the reality of the Arab tourism and the most prominent of its challenges and submitting recommendations and solutions to get out of these challenges and submitting them to the decision-makers for the necessity of paying attention to dangers and precariousnesses of the case of the regional instability on the Arab tourism.

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