Britain's position on the Iraqi-Iranian problems for the period (1920-1936 AD)

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Received: August 15, 2022; reviews: 2; accepted: November 21, 2022

Abstract

The study examines Britain's position on the Iraqi-Persian disputes after the establishment of the Kingdom of Iraq in 1920 AD, and it examines the most important stages that the border problem went through since the establishment of the Kingdom and Persia's attempt to exploit the political situation and expand at the expense of Iraq, through negotiations between the two parties at the initiative of Iraq to reach a solution and discuss the problem in the League Nations and the failure to reach a solution due to the refusal of the Iraqi side to concede Iraqi lands due to the presence of a text in the Iraqi constitution and the opposition of public opinion, leading to the year 1936 AD, which witnessed a change in the political administration in Iraq and a change in the point of view towards the problem of the Iraqi-Iranian border.

Keywords

Iraq's contemporary history, the problem of its Iraqi-Iranian borders, the problem of the Shatt al-Arab, the Iraqi-British relations, the Iranian-Iraqi relations.

Introduction

After its establishment in 1920 AD, the Kingdom of Iraq faced several problems, the most important of which was the border problem with neighboring countries, especially the eastern borders of Iraq with Persia, which represented an important link in the Iraqi-Persian relations until 1936 AD.

It is important to research the reasons that led to the emergence of the Iraqi-Persian border problem and to know the previous agreements to demarcate the borders between the two parties before 1914 AD when Iraq was under Ottoman control, and Iran's position on those agreements, as well as the impact of those
treaties on the official Iraqi position regarding Iranian claims in the lands Iraqi.

Studying the reasons that prompted Fares to cancel previous treaties on borders and demanding a radical change in borders, obtaining property and expanding at the expense of Iraqi lands and rivers, and highlighting the most important political and economic gains that Fares tried to obtain from behind its policy of changing the borders with Iraq.

In addition, another importance of the study lies in the study of other problems that have arisen between Iraq and Iran in all fields, including Iran's position on issuing the Iraqi Civil Status Law and how to deal with the situation of Iranian nationals in Iraq.

It is important to know Britain's policy in managing the border problem between Iraq and Persia and the most important gains that it obtained through blackmailing the two parties to obtain concessions from the two parties in favor of consolidating its interests in the two countries, especially in Iraq, which it was bartering with in its external borders and parts of its kingdom in exchange for recognition of British interests in Iraq.

The study consists of an introduction, four points, a conclusion, and a list of sources. The first point dealt with the nature and causes of the problem of the Iraqi-Iranian borders, which is a description of the borders geographically on both sides of the length and the nature of the land, and the border treaties between the Persian state and the Ottoman state that ruled Iraq before the First World War, and the most important reasons that led To raise the problem of borders between the two countries, and the second point examined the Iranian government’s recognition of the Kingdom of Iraq and its impact on the border problem between the two parties, and the third point discussed the reasons that led to raising the border problem to the League of Nations, and the most important discussions that took place on the problem, and the fourth point came to discuss In the attempts made by the two countries, especially Iraq, to resolve differences over borders diplomatically, and the reasons that obstructed diplomatic efforts.

**Problem of the study**

The researcher tries to answer a number of examples related to the problem of the Iraqi-Iranian border, namely, were there border agreements between the Ottoman Empire and the Persian state before the establishment of the Kingdom of Iraq in 1920, what are the Iranian ambitions in the Iraqi lands, and what is the position of the Iraqi government regarding the Iranian attempts to obtain. Gains at the expense of Iraqi lands and the Shatt al-Arab, and what role did Britain play in bringing the points of view closer between Iraq and Iran?

**Aim of the study**

The study aims to provide scientific answers to the questions put by the researcher in the problem of the study, which is the discovery of Iran's policy
towards Iraq after the establishment of the Kingdom of Iraq in 1920, and Iraq's position and policy towards Iranian claims in Iraqi lands and waters, especially the Shatt al-Arab, and an attempt to clarify the role played by the British government in bringing the Iraqi and Iranian points of view closer and resolving many problems between the two parties.

**Importance of the study**

The study is of great importance because it will answer many questions from the subject of the study and clarify the most important problems that occurred between Iraq and Iran at the beginning of the establishment of the Kingdom of Iraq. Managing the problems between Iraq and Iran in particular and in the Middle East in general.

**First: The nature and causes of the Iraqi-Iranian border problem.**

Iraq and Iran share a land border of more than 1,100 km and a river border that follows the Shatt al-Arab, and for an area of approximately 112. The disputed area (Hamdan, 2014: p. 2.).

Also, the border between the two countries is unclear and not criticized in this region, as both sides alternated over it at different times. The Iraqi-Iranian border in its current form was not a fixed border, but rather it is just the last picture of Iranian transgressions on Iraqi lands throughout the long history and the continuous concessions by the occupying colonial powers. The land of Iraq has the Ottomans and the British on the one hand, and the successive Iraqi governments after independence on the one hand. Therefore, these borders in each stage of history have a different image (Raouf, 1981: p.143-147.).

**Protocol of 1911:**

After the failure of the Border Planning Committee formed under the Second Treaty of Erzurum to complete the border planning process, disputes and problems between the two countries continued until the beginning of the twentieth century. The issue of the borders between them. In the event that no final results are reached within six months, the matter is referred to the International Court of Justice and the status quo is preserved and the dispute over the disputed territories is not raised under the pretext of claiming it(Al-Asadi, 1983: p. 9-10).

There was no noticeable development in the negotiations between the Ottoman Empire and the Persian State regarding this protocol and as a result of the intervention of Britain and Russia and the latter's realization between the two countries' desire to reach a final settlement between them, this is why he intervened in those negotiations between the two countries and then signed the Astana Protocol on November 14, 1913, which dealt with the land and river borders between the two countries. The two states. It was noted in this protocol that the Ottoman sovereignty was established along the course of the Shatt al-Arab to the
sea, including the river, and all the islands in it except for what ended there. The protocol placed the Shatt al-Arab until the sea falls under Ottoman sovereignty. Which is located in Muhammarah as a port berth and this concession may be the result of British pressure (Ibid, p.9).

On January 9, 1920, the Persian Foreign Minister submitted a memorandum to the President of the Supreme Peace Conference explaining the problem of the border, calling for the amendment of some of its parts. Curzon promised him that the British government could support some of these claims (Baxter, 1970: p. 3).

The establishment of the modern Iraqi state came on August 23, 1921, after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and Britain’s occupation of Iraqi lands during World War I (1914-1918) at a time when Iran was experiencing a fundamental change in its political structure and after the collapse of Qajar rule and the beginning of the Pahlavi dynasty to rule. Reza Khan succeeded in getting his country’s parliament to terminate the last ruler of the Qajar kingdom (Ahmad Shah) on October 31, 1925, he became the first Pahlavi Shah and then crowned him on the throne on April 25, 1926 AD(Al-Khuzaï, 2007: p. 53.). The occupation of Ahwaz in 1925 was a new step that enabled Persia to reach the Shatt al-Arab (Burke, 2007: p. 118.), he did not want to recognize the current situation in Iraq and took advantage of the border problem and began to question it and threatened the Iraqi government that he would change the borders of his country and take the necessary measures to implement his threat and escalated his attacks along the border and carried out a series of incidents and disturbances, which made Iraq demand to refer the case to the joint communication committee formed representatives from both sides to investigate and report on them(Al-Najjar, 1982: p. 258.).

Despite the historical, cultural and religious links created by nature between Iraq and Iran, which date back to ancient times, the position taken by Iran was likened to the spirit of estrangement towards the national government established by King Faisal I on August 23, 1921. Despite the recognition of a large number of European and Asian countries, including the Turkish government, and despite the fact that Iraq was part of the Ottoman Empire (Al-Hasani, 1974: p. 198-199.), the representatives of Persia in Karbala, Najaf, Basra, Khanaqin and Baghdad returned to the British Accreditation House in Baghdad in order to deal with all issues, including the issues of nationality, ignoring that Iraqi government (Ramazani, 1990: p206.).

Throughout the royal era, Iraq witnessed several problems with Persia, the most important of which were the problems of the long borders (Aswad, 1981: p. 24.), the problems of the rivers that originate from Iranian lands, as well as the problems of the mobile tribes and their transgressions on the borders, and the attempts of successive Iranian governments to exploit the internal conditions in Iraq to consolidate their expansionist ambitions in its land and waters (Hamidi, 1982: p. 229.).

Also, many incidents occurred along the borders between the two countries,
including looting and disruption of security and leaders on the cities and villages adjacent to the border, especially in the areas of Sulaymaniyah, Khanaqin and Mandali. Memos were often exchanged in this regard, but the two sides denied the occurrence of such incidents because they were not aware of them and their actors (Al-Khuzail, 1992:p. 35.).

The reason for the Persian government’s non-recognition of the national rule in Iraq and the persistence of problems between them was the result of a group of factors, the most important of which were the privileges granted by Iraq to foreigners under the Iraqi agreement signed between the Iraqi and British governments on March 25, 1924, which excluded the Persian community in Iraq under the provisions of Article One (Al-Eazı, 1980: p. 37.), which extolled the application of the term “foreigners” to nationals of European and American countries that had previously benefited from the provisions of foreign privileges in Turkey and that did not relinquish those privileges and Asian countries that have a permanent representative in the Council of the League of Nations (Ibd: p. 191-192.).

Britain wanted to inflame and manage the crises between Iraq and Persia to preserve its interests in the two countries, especially the judicial agreement signed between Iraq and Britain. Faisal needed to improve Iraq’s relations with neighboring countries, including Fars (Imad, 2007: p. 103.), so he sent a letter to Prime Minister Abdul-Mohsen Al-Saadoun, explaining his desire to cancel the judicial agreement as soon as possible (Hussein, 1975, p. 30.).

Iran has concluded several temporary agreements with the Iraqi government since 1922, before recognizing it, including a temporary agreement between them to import criminals by exchange signed in Baghdad on December 6, 1922. Iraq, India and Iran to block foreign postal services (Al-Asadi,1983: p. 34).

Britain was working to occupy and weaken Iraq and was trying to keep the problem of the borders with Persia open without a solution. Despite its knowledge of the clarity of the borders and their planning, it was filling Persia in its demands in line with the interests Britain had with it, and this encouraged Persia to demand more amendments the border (Al-Najjar,1982: p. 257.).

To change the border with Iraq, the Persian Foreign Minister, Timor Tash, interviewed Austin Chamberlain, the British Foreign Minister, who informed him that Britain had no objection to amending the border with Iraq if the conditions allowed for that, but Britain’s fear of agitating Iraqi public opinion and accusing it of disposing of Iraqi lands and waters prevented it from moving On the concession and agreement with Persia on the border without taking the opinion of the Iraqis (d.k.w.,1931: p. 3.).

The issue of foreign privileges that the Persians did not obtain in Iraq contributed to prompting the two sides’ press to publish provocative articles, and that each of them was a sort. In addition, the representative of the Persian government in the game of nations attacked Iraqi policy on September 7, 1924 strongly on the subject of these privileges, based on the fact Except that the Persian
patronage enjoyed the privileges granted to foreign nationals of the major countries during the era of the Ottoman Empire, of which Iraq was a part (Al-Hasani, 1974, p. 199).

As for the Iraqi government, it rejected the Persian government’s request to obtain privileges for its nationals according to the following reasons (Al-Arabi, 1980: p. 38):
1- The Persian government did not recognize the Iraqi government.
2- The Persian government’s contact with the British High.
3- Commissioner and its disregard for the Iraqi government. Persia’s sponsorship of the privileges granted to foreigners has prompted some Iraqis to naturalize Persian citizenship.
4- The failure of Iraqis residing in Persia to enjoy the judicial privileges that were granted by the State of Persia for the care of the Ottomans residing there.

Despite this, the Iraqi government headed by Al-Mohsen Al-Sadoun, at the beginning of 1928, had obtained many demographic and economic facilities to improve relations between the two countries (Faraj, 1980: pp. 259-260).

When the Persian government canceled the foreign privileges of its country, it began to demand the Iraqi government to cancel other privileges in order to equalize its citizens residing in Iraq with the nationals of foreign countries. Under this urgency, Iraq demanded Britain in two memoranda, the first on November 17, 1928 and the second on November 25, 1928 to cancel the judicial agreement concluded between them To be able to cancel the privileges granted to foreigners mentioned in Article 1 of that agreement (Al-Hasani, 1980: pp. 39-40).

The Iraqi government was able to persuade the British government to cancel that agreement after the latter obtained pledges from Iraq to increase the number of British justice employees employed and contracted for a long time. Iraqi Prime Minister Abdul Mohsen Al-Sadoun made it clear that the number of British employees will not increase to the extent that the Iraqi treasury will bear heavy expenses, and that an agreement will be made between the two governments on the number of employees (Farag, 1980: p. 265).

Second: The recognition of the Fars government by the Iraqi government and its impact on the differences between them.

Recognition of the Iraqi government by the Persian Government After the two sides became tired of the problem, Britain intervened to convince Persia of the necessity of recognizing the Iraqi kingdom. An Iraqi delegation headed by Rustam Haidar, head of the royal court, traveled to Tehran (Al-Hasani, 1976: p. 267.), on April 20, 1929, Rustam Haidar, head of the Iraqi royal court, for the purpose of thanking the Shah of Iran for a congratulatory telegram of the Iraqi delegation with the Iranian Prime Minister on April 25, the latter presented his recognition of the Iraqi government, then the Iraqi delegation returned with a letter from the Shah to King Faisal confirming the good relationship between the two countries (Al-
Following the Persian government’s recognition of Iraq, the Persian government sent Enayatullah Khan as its first minister plenipotentiary in Iraq. He conducted negotiations with the Iraqi government to conclude an agreement between the two sides. The agreement was signed on August 10, 1929. The two parties similarly, as well as facilitating Iranian exports to Iraq and between the two sides. The duration of the agreement was one year (Al-Hasani, 1974: p. 247-248.).

Despite Iran’s recognition of Iraq and the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, Iran did not recognize the legitimacy of the border between them and Iraq, those borders based on the terms and provisions of the Second Erzurum Treaty of 1847 and the Constantinople Protocol of 1913, as well as the minutes of the sessions of the Ottoman-Persian Boundary Committee of 1913-1914, and this became clear Through the armed actions it carried out in the Shatt al-Arab, its exposure to Iraqi ships and its establishment of outposts inside Iraqi territory, it also exceeded Iraq's share in the waters of the common border rivers (Al-Najjar, 1974: p. 169.).

After the invitation received by King Faisal from the Shah of Iran, the King visited Tehran on April 22, 1932, accompanied by an official delegation headed by Prime Minister Nuri Al-Said and Minister Plenipotentiary of Iraq in Tehran Tawfiq Al-Suwaidi, Naji Al-Suwaidi, Minister of Legislation, Tahseen Quddus, his assistant, Mr. Baqir Al-Husseini, Dr. Saad, and the Minister of Iran delegate in Baghdad (Al-Suwaidi, 1969: p. 226.).

During this visit, Iran raised the issue of the Shatt al-Arab, so the Shah offered to make the Taluk line, which is the border line between the two countries, but King Faisal refused to fulfill this desire of Iran, Iran also rejected a British project regarding the formation of a council comprising Iraq, Iran and Britain to maintain and organize navigation in the Shatt al-Arab (Al-Suwaidi, 1969: p. 232.).

The two parties agreed to enter into formal negotiations on the related problems between the two countries. Agreements were concluded regulating the following matters:
1- Concluding a judicial agreement between Iraq and Iran.
2- Concluding a criminal exchange agreement.
3- Concluding an agreement regulating population and border relations (Al-Asadi, 1983, p. 28).

However, circumstances led to the effect of that, and only the convention was concluded. It is worth mentioning that the Arab Commission was formed in Tehran in March 1931 by its founder, Tawfiq Al-Suwaidi (Al-Hasani, 1974: p. 182.).

**Iraqi-Iranian relations after Iraq entered the League of Nations**

After Iraq's entry into the League of Nations on October 3, 1932, Reza Shah sent a congratulatory telegram to King Faisal on this occasion. The Iranian side, in order to obtain territorial gains, carried out a series of actions and incidents along the Iraqi-Iranian border during the years from 1932 to 1934. These acts were
represented by looting and looting by groups of Iranian wretched people in the Penjwin regions. The Iranian sponsorship, at the instigation of his government, attacked Iraqi lands in a brigade Al-Amarah exploited it. In the field of border rivers, Iran has built dams, as is the case in the dam it erected on the Kanakir River, which caused the orchards to dry up in the Mandali area. They exchanged notes about these incidents, but they did not lead to a solution (Al-Rawi, 1970: p. 390-400).

It did not stop the incidents and violations committed by Iran along the Iraqi borders, and Iraq's desire to reach a solution in order to get rid of differences by peaceful means (Al-Khattab, 1983, p.9.).

The Iraqi government offered Persia its readiness to negotiate a satisfactory solution to all the outstanding problems between the two governments (Al-Najjar, 1981: p. 260.), on the basis of the final determination of the boundary line established in 1914, and on the condition that these negotiations do not lead to a breach of Iraq's sovereignty in any part of the lands and internal waters within the borders of Iraq (Foreign Affairs, 1932 : p. 21). But Faris began to infiltrate the Iraqi border, so it attacked a distance of 488,418 square meters on the left bank of the Shatt al-Arab, raised the border columns, and began arresting Iraqi nationals, shooting at those who feared its instructions, and confiscating the cargo of ships approaching from the left shore (F.O., 1932: P.1).

Iraqi Foreign Minister Nuri al-Said visited Tehran on May 5, 1934 carrying a letter from King Ghazi to the Shah of Iran calling for a solution to the outstanding issues between them since 1932. And it failed to achieve the goal that Iraq seeks because of Iran's insistence on not recognizing the legitimacy of the borders (Al-Asadi, 1983, p. 124-125.), When Nuri al-Said was in Tehran to complete the treaty, Timur Tash, the Persian royal court minister, offered him (3) km from the Shatt al-Arab, a port for Abadan, but Nuri al-Saeed refused (Imad, 2007: p. 118.), and when Nuri al-Saeed returned to Baghdad, he presented the Iranian request to the Council of Ministers, which rejected it unanimously because the Iraqi constitution does not allow any part of Iraqi lands to be ceded, but it considers it better to lease the area that Iran wants in return for its recognition of the disputed Iraqi rights (Grupa, 1979: p. 92.).

Iranian Foreign Minister Baqer Khan Kazemi visited Iraq in November 1934 and stated to the Iraqi government that the actions carried out by Persian officials in the Shatt al-Arab are in accordance with the rights of international rules and cannot be described as transgressing because Iraq relies in its rights on documents prepared by Persia that lack legal legitimacy (kW Royal, 1934).

**Third: The Iraqi-Iranian differences in the League of Nations**

After negotiations between Iraq and Iran failed twice, and that Iran was not serious about reaching a final settlement to resolve its differences with Iraq, and that the border problems raised by Iran continued to persist, he decided on October 25, 1934 to submit a complaint to the League of Nations about those problems, while keeping the door open to Iran, as I wanted to solve the problems with Iraq
through direct negotiations (Al-Khuzai, 1992: p. 46.).

On January 2, 1935, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent to the Council of the League of Nations official documents regarding the agreements signed by the Persian government and the Ottoman Empire on the nature of borders, which are not recognized by the Iranian government (Al-Khuzai, 1992: p. 46.).

On November 29, 1934, the Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nuri al-Said, submitted a memorandum to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, which included Iraq’s complaint regarding two issues: Iran’s continuous aggressions and crossing the border line between the two countries, and the second, the Iranian government’s non-recognition of the border documents between the two countries (Al-Asadi, 2003: p. 41).

On January 21, 1935, the League of Nations appointed Baron Aloisi, the delegate of Italy, as mediator between Iraq and Iran to resolve their differences. As a result, the discussion on the issue was transferred to Rome, to which Nuri al-Saeed traveled, as he was the Iraqi delegate to the League of Nations (Al-Bajachi, 1989: p. 185-186).

Nuri Al-Said intended to conclude a treaty with Italy to gain the position of Alwezi, but the British Foreign Office refused to conclude such a treaty (Al-Bajachi, 1989: p. 186.).

At the time, Baron Aloisi had deliberately and politically maneuvered in order to force Iraq to sign the Treaty of Friendship with Italy in exchange for standing in favor of Iraq in his report to be issued despite the fact that Italian-Iranian relations are good, but he could not influence Iraq to conclude such a treaty (Abd Al-Rahman, 1986, pp. 218-243; Al-Amidi, 2005: p. 171).

The British documents stated that Al-Weizi preferred the Iranian plans, amid not the contention of Nuri Al-Saeed to accept a temporary agreement on international control over the Shatt Al-Arab, which prevents Iraq from its real sovereignty over the Shatt Al-Arab, and then Iran will be able to settle what was stated in the temporary agreement to become a permanent agreement (Safwat, 1983: p. 101).

Muzahim Al-Bajachi mentions that the French ambassador had an interest in this issue after his meeting, and it seems that the French had a desire to stand by Iraq in this issue in order to strengthen their relations with it, but Iraq’s strong relations with Britain were prevented without that (Al-Amidi, 2005: p. 171).

When presenting the complaint to the Council of the League of Nations on January 14, 1935, Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Said affirmed his adherence to the legitimacy of the borders that were held in accordance with the Constantinople Protocol of 1913. It is under the control of a regular administration, which is the director of the port of Basra, which always works to ensure that navigation on the coast is free from any obstacles or obstacles, As for the representative of Iran, Mirza Seyyed Baqer Kazemi, in his speech before the League Council on January 15, 1935, he affirmed the illegality of the Constantinople Protocol of 1913, arguing that the work of the Border Determination Committee, which began its work under
the aforementioned protocol, did not complete its work due to the opposition of the Ottomans, and that the demarcation of the borders included in the protocol The one signed by the two states (Al-Najjar, 1982, p. 202), was not submitted to the parliament of the Ottoman and Persian countries in order to gain legal status. At the same time, Kazemi denied returning the Shatt al-Arab to the Ottoman Empire under the Treaty of Erzurum of 1848 (Al-Hasani, 1974: p. 99.).

Settling Iraqi-Iranian Disputes Diplomatically

During the era of the permanent Hashemite cabinet (17 March 1935 - 29 October 1936), the ministry dispatched to Geneva on 14 May 1935 the two foreign ministers, Nuri al-Said al-Adliya, Mahmoud Zaki, to attend the discussions of the Council of the League of Nations in the Iraqi-Iranian border dispute (Al-Hasani, 1974: p. 99.).

After its return to Iraq, the ministry decided to ask the League of Nations to postpone the consideration of the dispute until the two countries negotiated between them, and accordingly it sent to Tehran on August 5, 1935 a delegation consisting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Justice, the Director of Foreign Affairs, the Director of Eastern Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Administrative Inspector for Military Improvement and the British experts Hungary, or the founder of the Ministry of Interior’s advisor, Colonel General Port Correspondent, was sent to continue with Iranian officials on this issue (Al-Hasani, 1974: p. 99.).

During his visit to Iran, the delegation met Reza Shah Pahlavi, who recognized the legitimacy of the second Erzurum Treaty on which the borders between the two countries are based, but three kilometers from the Shatt al-Arab at Abadan were left so that Iranian ships could dock there (Al-Asadi, 1983: p. 154.).

When the Iraqi delegation returned to Baghdad on August 25, 1935, the controversial issue was presented to the Iraqi Council of Ministers, which rejected the request because the Iraqi Basic Law does not allow the assignment of any part of the state’s property, but it expressed Iraq’s agreement to delay this space, provided that Iran agrees to Iraq’s demands legitimate in the various cases it (Al-Amidi, 2005: p 173.).

Because of the outbreak of some turmoil in Iraq, which prevented the completion of the negotiations, so it was postponed to another date. Britain was in favor of concluding the charter between Iraq and Iran to monitor navigation and maintenance of the Shatt al-Arab. Rather, it gave the two governments an appropriate text for them, and that is not the partnership of a third party in the negotiations (Al-Hasani, 1974: p. 100.).

In order to preserve their commercial and navigational interests in the Shatt al-Arab, the Iraqi government announced with some hesitation its approval after Ambassador Clark met with Prime Minister Yassin Al-Hashemi, but the Iranian government refused this participation in the agreement at the time (Safwat, 1983:}
p. 102.).

The British government was practicing a dual policy in this issue. On the one hand, it portrayed Iraq as standing by its side in its dispute with Iran, and on the other hand, it was compromising with the Iranian government. The British government assured Reza Shah of its willingness to help both sides in reaching a practical solution, but the Shah confirmed that he relies on the government. British to find a solution (Abd al-Rahman, 1986: p. 173).

Conclusions

Through our study of the subject of Britain’s position on the Iraqi-Persian border problem, we reached the following:

1- The Iraqi-Persian border problem was not without constants, but there were international agreements to define and demarcate the borders between the two parties, and the border line was clear with the recognition of the Persian government itself, which began to demand its re-demarcation to obtain new gains.

2- Britain used the border problem to pressure the Iraqi government and public opinion to establish its interests in Iraq according to a policy it followed to intimidate the modern Iraqi kingdom from losing important parts of Iraqi lands in the Shatt al-Arab and Mosul.

3- After the end of World War I, Persia tried to exploit the international situation and the loss of the Ottoman Empire in the war and its final demise to expand at the expense of Iraqi lands under the pretext that there were no border agreements between it and the newly established Iraqi state.

4- Persia resorted to achieve gains and amend the borders with Iraq to Britain, the mandatory power in Iraq, taking advantage of its position and Britain’s strategic interests in it.

5- Throughout the British Mandate of Iraq, the Persian government insisted on dealing with Britain regarding the border problem until its recognition of the Iraqi Kingdom in 1928 AD (with influence and pressure from Britain), so it recognized Iraq but did not recognize the border with Iraq.

6- Iranian pressures continued to change the borders, but the Iraqi government insisted on adhering to the Iraqi borders drawn by the Persian-Ottoman treaties. Despite Iraq’s complaint to the League of Nations, Persia did not respond and did not recognize the borders.

7- The Iraqi government remained insistent on its position in preserving Iraqi lands towards Iran’s policy until 1936 AD, because the Iraqi constitution does not allow the cession of Iraqi lands, as well as the fear of the Iraqi public opinion’s reaction to ceding Iraqi lands.

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