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## **The Current Economic And Political Instability And Its Effects On The Arab Economy And National Security**

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### **Abstract**

*The study aims to identify contemporary economic and political turmoil and its impact on Arab national security and economy. The researcher used the descriptive analytical method to describe the phenomenon studied. Therefore, the study reached several results including that political challenges are one of the main reasons for the weak economic balance, given the emergence of opposition groups that escalate violence in the Arab region, which negatively affects security. Furthermore, terrorism and globalization are among the most serious challenges facing Arab countries, given their impact on the economic and security aspect of Arab society. Additionally, the most important effects left by the political challenges that affected the societal security in the Arab Organization are the negative economic effects and the spread of poverty and unemployment among the people of the Arab world. It is worth noting that the passage of the Arab countries leads to a difficult transitional phase, leads to the demands of the leaders of Arab community for the necessity of achieving justice and achieving political reform to improve the economic conditions in the country. Thus, the war between Russia and Ukraine led to a clear imbalance in the economic balance of the Arab countries, in addition to the bad security dimensions created by that war.*

**Keywords:** *Challenges, Economy and Politics, Obstacles, Security and National Economy, Terrorism, Violence.*

### **1. Introduction**

The Arab economy and national security are currently facing a range of challenges resulting from political, economic, and cultural factors. These challenges are a direct consequence of the strategic geographical location of the Arab world, which has made it a focal point of conflict among global powers seeking control. Additionally, the region is affected by the problems of neighbouring countries, including their diverse ethnic, religious, and sectarian divisions. Furthermore, its persistent attempts to meddle in the domestic matters of Arab nations have been seen (Al-Rammah, 2020). Economic and political issues are fundamental causes of instability in political and economic systems. They lead to the failure to safeguard property rights, the proliferation of public corruption, and the erosion of economic equilibrium, as well as exerting an influence on these challenges. The Arab Spring revolutions significantly weakened foreign investment flows due to political and economic issues. These revolutions had a profound impact on depleting crucial resources, particularly

water and oil resources, within the Arab national economy. Additionally, they resulted in a decrease in external revenues. Additionally, they exerted pressure on all Arab nations, regardless of whether these revolutions were the ones mentioned or others (Sottilotta, 2013).

### ***1.1 The concept of national security:***

One notable definition of national security is provided by researcher Ata Zahra. According to Zahra, national security refers to the state in which the Arab nation, along with its people, is situated within a geographical context and is protected from any external or internal threats, whether direct or indirect. This protection is achieved through the nation's national capabilities and its ability to fulfil its civilizational role or engage in its development movement (Atta, 1986). In 1993, the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States put up a precise definition of national security, stating that "Arab national security refers to the capacity of the Arab nation to safeguard its rights, security, and preserve its authority and autonomy." The objective is to strengthen Arab resources and abilities in economic, social, political, and cultural domains within their territories. This will be achieved through the utilisation of diplomatic and military power, with particular attention to the specific national security requirements of each country. Additionally, consideration will be given to the international, regional, and internal factors that influence Arab national security and the resources at their disposal. The source cited is Al-Kilani.(1993)

According to Walter Lippmann, national security is achieved by engaging in and winning wars to protect a nation's main values and capabilities, thereby preventing threats and ensuring societal security. Hans Merjanthau highlights National security is seen to include the preservation of regional unity and its institutions. Conversely, there are those who have approached the concept from several perspectives. One of the concepts that deserves attention is the term of "Arnold Wolves," which objectively refers to the lack of dangers to learned and fundamental values. Internally, there is concern that these competencies and values may be vulnerable to potential threats or hazards (Al-Najjar, 2015).

- 1- Upon examining Robert McNamara's definition, it becomes evident that he aimed to avoid confining it solely to the military domain. Consequently, he defined it as not exclusively encompassing military equipment, even if it is included, and not being classified as a military activity, even if it involves such equipment. Nevertheless, he holds the belief that security Nationalism, in essence, is synonymous with progress. Without progress, security cannot be attained. Development, even at its most basic level, is a prerequisite for stability and security within societies (Al-Nahal, 2020). "Amin Huwaidi" describes it as including all the activities that occur. Communities adhere to it to safeguard their identity, maintain the longevity of their national advantages, and strategize for their perpetuity (Ismail, 2019).
- 2- Dr. Haitham Kilani provides a comprehensive and multi-dimensional definition of Arab national security. He defines it as the collective ability of Arab countries to achieve their shared national objectives, safeguard the Arab homeland, and protect the values, civilization, and well-being of the Arab nation in the presence of any external danger. The source cited is Khairy (2015). Arab national security refers to the collective efforts of Arab countries to coordinate, integrate, or unite to safeguard their freedom, independence, and sovereignty. It also aims to assert their presence in the international community, free from external threats or foreign interference. As a prominent Arab nation, we strive to assert our significance and influence in society, while safeguarding our identity against colonial aspirations. We prioritise our efforts in the political, economic, and military domains, aiming to defend the Arab riches and ensure the prosperity of our people (Al-Dardari, 1983). The preceding statement clarifies that the idea of Arab national security encompasses several strategies

and methods. The country pursues a strategy to safeguard its interests both domestically and internationally. This involves modifying its institutions and structures to align with the available resources and requirements.

**1.2 The three dimensions of Arab national security are:**

The political aspect of Arab national security: This aspect serves as a source of power by facilitating the coordination of Arab nations' national objectives. It involves establishing a framework that prioritises these goals and ensuring that all countries adhere to it. Additionally, political efforts are organised to address the issues that are of concern to the Arab world and to foster unity... Robust political institutions, heightened political engagement, and the promotion of equality among individuals irrespective of ethnicity, sects, and religion are crucial for safeguarding Arab national security by addressing potential vulnerabilities (Al-Rammah, 2018).

B. The economic aspect of Arab national security:

The Arab economic strength may be categorised into four indicators:

a. Human resources: The Arab world has a substantial and growing labour pool.

B. Agriculture: Agriculture continues to be the dominant sector in most Arab nations, with a total of around 125 million hectares of cultivated or arable land.

C. Industry: Despite the potential for industrial expansion in the Arab world, the industrial sector plays a minor role both in terms of its contribution to national GDP and the size of its workforce.

According to Dr. Natural Resources, the Arab world has significant reserves of valuable resources like phosphate, natural gas, petroleum, and iron. These resources are crucial for maintaining national security (Khalil, 2018). There have been six significant changes in Arab national security that both individual Arab nations and the Arab region have experienced. In all, starting from the end of 2010, the following items are included:

a. The struggling process of transitioning to democracy in the Arab nation.

B. The intricacy of violent conflicts inside Arab nations. C. Disproportionate economic development and the consequent proliferation of marginalised factions.

There is a growing military influence from non-Arab regional states, including Iran, Turkey, and Israel.

The West's persistent strategy of advocating democracy and the resulting shift in the perception of national security for Arab nations.

Furthermore. The international powers, including Russia, European countries, China, and the United States, have shown a growing interest in the region by adopting policies that involve the establishment of military bases. These bases are either located within certain Arab countries or in the southern belt of Arab national security. As for the map of threats to Arab national security, we find that they are as follows:

a. Weakness of the central state.

B. The increasing spread of extremism and terrorism.

C. Renewed minority problems.

Dr. The increasing importance of the security of political systems at the expense of other dimensions of security.

H. The shift in the political center of gravity in the Arab region

And then. The inability of the Arab League to settle conflicts within Arab countries.

g. The difficulty of forming Arab forces for rapid intervention (Rajab, 2017).

### ***1.3 The consequences of current political difficulties and their influence on the domestic economy.***

The Arab region has been significantly influenced by the external environment, as well as facing numerous internal political challenges. This has led to various changes and developments that aim to disrupt the security and economic stability of Arab societies. This has resulted in the challenge of safeguarding the security and well-being of the populace. The internal aspects inside Arab nations have significantly impacted social security, leading to increased complexities, destruction, and economic turbulence (Mohammed, 2021).

Economic crises are widely recognised as significant factors in driving political change. Scholars argue that these crises have a catalytic impact on both national and international politics. However, there is a lack of consensus regarding the precise role and causal mechanisms through which economic crises influence political dynamics. The Great Recession and subsequent political upheaval have sparked renewed interest in the crisis and its impact on political transformation. However, the complex connection between the two phenomena remains unresolved.

The political landscape of a democratic nation can have various impacts on the performance of the national economy. Certain factors that influence economic growth, such as the amount and allocation of public expenditure, can be easily quantified and analysed using econometric methods. However, other determinants, particularly those that have an indirect effect on economic growth, such as market participants' expectations, are much more challenging to measure accurately. (Osterloh, 2010).

Economically, we see a strong correlation between growth and stability in the political realm, both in theory and in practice. Uncertainty stemming from a volatile political climate might result in decreased investment and hinder the pace of economic progress. Conversely, inadequate economic performance results in the collapse of the administration and political turmoil. It is worth mentioning that nations During times characterised by a proclivity for government collapse, there is a significant decrease in economic growth compared to other eras. The magnitude of this impact becomes apparent when observing changes in government within the nation (Alesina, 2005). The notion of security is intricately connected to the notion of stability, since guaranteeing the internal stability of the state is tightly intertwined with assuring the security of the state. There are three distinct levels of stability: the first level pertains to the stability of the state's military-political leadership, which includes factors such as a permanent composition and legally defined conditions of service. The second level focuses on the stability of the political system, which involves maintaining the current socio-political order, allowing political changes to occur in an evolutionary manner, and avoiding political violence. The third level concerns the stability of society and its individuals, which encompasses preserving the state's territorial integrity, ensuring the personal safety and well-being of citizens, improving

environmental protection, and maintaining a balanced demographic. By merging the concept of security with the state of stability, it becomes evident that instability at any of these levels can result in a loss of state security or, at the very least, an imbalance in it (KUSA, 2018)

The influential impact of political movements has resulted in the formation of opposition factions, which serve as a primary catalyst for the escalation of violence. It is vital to emphasise that affluent factions, wielding significant influence, played a pivotal part in instigating war, driven by their desire to attain and fulfil substantial power-related influence and interests. To enhance its economic potential and optimise its market influence, a country must safeguard and bolster its riches (K. Dalacoura, 2011).

The presence of economic growth and development is contingent upon a political and institutional framework. Economic decisions are influenced by regulations, institutions, and societal limitations, which are mediated through a political process. A stable governance environment, characterised by the rule of law and social cooperation, will promote the generation of wealth, given the presence of favourable economic prospects. Nevertheless, the political process is often disorderly, institutions fall short of being perfect regulations that minimise transaction costs, and social connections are marked by conflict and even violence (Solimano, 2005).

The Arab Spring upheavals, extremism, and terrorism are among the significant internal political difficulties that have had a distinct influence on Arab social security and the region. The Arab nations are now undergoing a challenging and significant period of transition, characterised by political and economic reforms. Arab populations have expressed their desire for justice and the exclusion of all kinds of injustice, leading to this transformative era. It is imperative to implement reasonable legal procedures to provide compensation to victims of human rights abuses to achieve political change and transitional justice, given the existence of many corrupt regimes.

The postponement of this step may have short-term advantages for societal cohesion, but it undermines trust in the new regimes and transitional authorities. This delay reveals the continued influence of elements from the overthrown authoritarian regimes, whose interests are threatened by transitional justice, which will not be realised. Realistic reform entails societies acknowledging and successfully addressing the problem of oppression, considering its presence in their traditions, history, circumstances, and the extent of injustice (E. Kienle, 2013)

- Many nations, for instance, adopted political and economic reforms.
- To address the challenges and enhance the situation within the country, the Tunisian government, under the guidance of the Ennahda Party, established a Ministry for Human Rights and Political and Economic Reform. The primary objective of this ministry was to engage in discussions and propose measures pertaining to political and economic reform. However, the implementation of this decision was halted by the Constituent Assembly in 2013 AD (M. Ottaway, 2011).
- Conversely, the Libyan General National Congress implemented the Political Reform Law in 2013 AD, which enhanced a method for investigating and uncovering the truth, ensuring accountability, restoring order, and instituting reforms at the political and economic levels. In 2013, the Conference enacted the Political Isolation Law, which outlines its functioning. State personnel in authoritarian regimes are legally forbidden from occupying any political, governmental, or social roles for a maximum duration of ten years (Al-Sharkasi, 2017).
- In addition, the Arab nations have failed to implement effective steps in terms of political reform, despite the significance of such measures in attaining national reconciliation. Due to the divergent viewpoints among key political figures and the

absence of accountability and justice, the actions taken against the wrongdoers have transformed into acts of retaliation that undermine the security and stability of society, in addition to other negative consequences. The implementation of political reform has not had a discernible effect on fostering confidence in the political process, ameliorating the long-lasting scars of repression, and paving the path towards enhanced reverence for individual rights. Political reform efforts have caused leaders to become dissatisfied, resulting in negative impacts on the safety and security of society (Khairallah, 2011)

- 1- The primary disruptions that impacted economic stability:
- 2- 1- Democracy:
- 3- In relation to democracy, within the Arab area, there were uprisings and nationalist movements initiated by people who saw the need for change and the significance of overthrowing oppressive political and religious factions via coups. The objective centred on the significance of the person and the extent of democracy's implementation, with several nationalists believing that effectuating swift political transformations would facilitate attaining a respectable standard of life, including the right to affiliate with political parties and freely articulate viewpoints. However, the outcomes of the revolutions did not align entirely with the aspirations and objectives pursued by the revolutions, prompting nationalists to rebel and make significant financial and personal sacrifices (M. Al-Ississ, 2016).
- 4- Several Arab nations have advocated for freedom, democracy, human rights, and the establishment of a new policy centred on participation, equality, and tolerance. An essential aspect to prioritise is the diligent consideration and emphasis on civil society during transitional phases, as it signifies the facilitation of collaborative efforts among individuals. Familiarise individuals with their obligations, responsibilities, and entitlements, and enlighten them about the objectives and values envisaged by democracy; nonetheless, these catchphrases only remained theoretical and none of them were put into practice. The inadequate implementation of democracy among the Arab populations resulted in a widespread occurrence of violence and the rise of movements and revolutions advocating for the people's right to govern and the establishment of democratic principles inside nations (Denber, 2012).
- 5- Following the Arab Spring upheavals, the chanting intensified, resulting in an increased demand for democratic rights. This, in turn, led to the continuance and intensification of demonstrations, as well as numerous sectarian demands. As a result, manufacturing stopped operating, the international commerce movement was disrupted, and the tourist industry saw a near-complete collapse. This occurred when there were limited options to depend on financial reserves, due to the widespread... The international investors are in a state of fear because to the escalating revolutionary scenario in Tunisia and Egypt. This circumstance calls for the swift removal of the corrupt leaders, whether they are now in their respective countries or have hidden their wealth in foreign banks (Abdel Hafez, 2017). The researcher has the belief that all of this is true, without a doubt. It resulted in the halt of operations at significant economic facilities, so impacting the economic elements of Arab countries.

## **2. Terrorism and extremism**

In terms of terrorism, the battle against terrorism poses the most significant obstacles confronting the nation, depleting financial resources, exertion, and time. Preventing and fully controlling it is challenging because to the inadequacy of the security measures used, which are often less successful than the planning of terrorists. The issue pertains to developing nations, where countering terrorism necessitates a substantial expenditure to ensure comprehensive protection for individuals. Numerous countries have encountered

terrorist attacks, resulting in compromised security and diminished well-being among populations. The rise of terrorist movements has been a primary and initial cause for depriving individuals and communities of peace, contentment, and satisfaction (Y. Alexander, 2012).

Terrorism has significantly contributed to the destabilisation of societal safety and security. It has resulted in the displacement of women and children, the loss of innocent lives, and has had a pervasive impact on various aspects of security, social dynamics, economy, and politics. Additionally, terrorist groups have targeted and recruited young individuals, exploiting them to further propagate their extremist ideologies. Victims engaging in house invasions, specifically targeting innocent victims, unlawfully taking their money, assaulting their dignity, and subsequently eliminating them without any valid reason, have caused significant public outrage and widespread disorder (B. Lia, 2016).

ISIS is widely recognised as a major terrorist organisation that has gained significant notoriety in recent years. The organisation has propagated corruption and posed a significant danger to communities and individuals. Additionally, it has been involved in acts of retribution against young people and has actively supported the notion of violence. It expressed dissatisfaction with these actions, since they caused pain, death, and torture to children, and were executed. ISIS has significantly undermined societal security by its non-Islam-related operations, targeting young persons for retribution. These actions have resulted in the violation of human rights, the dissemination of terror and fear among citizens, and the intimidation of security officers (Fielding, 2016).

However, when it comes to extremism, its danger has reached a critical level throughout all Arab nations, serving as a cautionary message against the radicalism that poses a threat of violent extremism. The phenomenon of radicalism is proliferating across many age groups, particularly among the young, the jobless, workers, individuals of different religious backgrounds, both the learned and illiterate, and individuals of all genders, including women and men. It is worth noting that this radicalism may serve as a disguise or a smokescreen. The issue of extremism is a significant and prevalent obstacle for Arab cultures, although it remains inadequately and ambiguously addressed. This has significantly contributed to the increase in the number of young individuals joining extremist organisations. The Arab upheavals have bolstered the idea of extremism and its involvement in a wider domain, with The revolutions have contributed to the rise of extremist groups, exploiting the ongoing crisis in Arab countries and the resulting fear and anxiety among individuals and communities. This has led to an increase in the influence and power of these groups, as well as the recruitment of young people who aim to eradicate incorrect and deviant ideologies from Arab nations. This phenomenon involves the eradication and dismantling of the convictions held by young individuals, as well as the implantation of harmful objectives and notions in their brains, ultimately promoting their engagement in acts of sabotage and destruction (United Nations Development Programme, 2016).

The problem of extremism in Arab societies has been influenced by various factors, including political, economic, cultural, social, ideological, and intellectual issues. The rise in youth unemployment and the increase in poverty levels have particularly contributed to this problem. These circumstances create a significant void for individuals, depriving them of opportunities for meaningful participation. When attempting to tackle the issues within their nation, some individuals have become affiliated with extremist organisations. These groups advocate for change and reform, but employ inappropriate methods and strategies that promote terrorism and violence. They aim to impose their beliefs and suppress differing thoughts and opinions, reflecting the prevalent culture of intolerance among individuals and young people in Arab societies. This refers to the engagement with extreme and politicised religious discussions that contribute to the dissemination of ideological

rhetoric advocating for moderation in interactions, promoting extremism among individuals, rejecting others, and enforcing violence (R. Borum, 2011)

- 6- Extremism has had a pervasive effect on all Arab societies.
- 7- It plays a significant role in worsening actions that harm individuals and society, preventing them from achieving economic prosperity and development. This is a universal demand for individuals worldwide. Additionally, it promotes the culture of killing innocent lives and destruction, leading to social, economic, and political corruption within Arab societies. This has contributed to the rise of revolutions by oppressed peoples, military defections, and the formation of terrorist and criminal groups. These groups aim to dismantle societies and undermine the security of nations (M. M. Khan, 2015). It may be inferred from this that in the last 25 years, there has been an increasing understanding that institutions play a crucial role in supporting economic markets and establishing the structure in which bureaucracy and political rivalry function. International politics has gained prominence in economic development discussions due to the implementation of structural adjustment programmes. It is evident that the combination of technically advanced design and the adoption of legal and regulatory standards is crucial. The event was insufficient to foster the establishment of effective institutions. The political considerations underlie the economic institutions. Therefore, it is evident that achieving successful institutional and political transformation requires the ability to regulate the fundamental principles and incentives that influence economic markets (Fritz, 2014).

8- The ramifications of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict on the Arab economy and security: Russian-Arab relations are a crucial cornerstone of Russian foreign policy, with Russia playing a prominent role in various issues and events concerning the Arab region. This involvement extends beyond economic and political means to include military intervention. The region's transformation during the Arab Spring revolutions provided an opportunity for Russia to establish itself as a major international player. Consequently, Russia expanded its influence in the Arab region, employing economic, security, political, media, military, and intelligence strategies. The Arab countries, where the revolutions took place, experienced a significant negative impact on societal security due to the supply of equipment and weapons. The military forces also contributed to the displacement of people, intimidation of security forces, arms trade, killing of innocent individuals, and the prevalence of crime (Rawabet Centre for Strategic and Political Studies, 2015).

The estimated cost of Russian armaments sent to a group of Arab monarchs during the Arab Spring in 2011 was \$4 billion. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Russia accounted for 48% of the weapons imported to Syria between 2006 and 2010. This was before the Arab Spring in 2011, when pressure on the government and the rise of armed gangs led to an influx of approximately \$960 million. According to the top auditor inside the Syrian Ministry of Defence, the shipment of Russian weaponry on a monthly basis has led to the displacement of people, posed a danger to safety, destroyed security, and escalated the tempo of battle (S. Adams, 2015). The war poses a significant detriment to the global economy, resulting in hindered growth and increased pricing. Looking beyond the pain and humanitarian disaster caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, it becomes evident that the global economy will be impacted by a decrease in growth and an acceleration of inflation.

The impacts will propagate via three primary pathways. Initially, the escalation of commodity prices, particularly in the food and energy sectors, will contribute to an increase in inflation. Consequently, this will diminish earnings and undermine consumer demand. Furthermore, adjacent economies will have challenges in dealing with interruptions to commerce, supply networks, and money transfers, and will see an unprecedented increase



in the number of refugees. Furthermore, the decrease in company confidence and the rise in investor uncertainty would have a detrimental effect on asset values, leading to stricter financial conditions and perhaps causing money to be withdrawn from developing markets.

Due to supply chain disruptions, worldwide prices, particularly for oil and natural gas, have seen a significant increase, primarily because Russia and Ukraine, two major commodity producing nations, have been affected. The price of food increased due to the record-breaking level of wheat prices, with Ukraine and Russia accounting for 30% of world wheat exports each. When considering the broader impact on a global scale, it becomes evident that the nations most likely to experience heightened pressure are those with significant commercial, tourist, and direct financial ties. Economies reliant on oil imports may have elevated fiscal and trade deficits, as well as heightened inflationary pressures. Conversely, oil-exporting nations, particularly those in the Middle East and Africa, may derive advantages from increased prices.

Escalating food and gasoline costs: An escalation in food and fuel costs would heighten the likelihood of social upheaval in several countries, including Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. Additionally, some areas in Africa and the Middle East are expected to see a surge in food insecurity. While quantifying the occurrence of these resonances is challenging, it is evident that there is a possibility of revising our growth projections downwards soon, once we have a more comprehensive understanding of the situation via our World Economic Outlook and regional evaluations.

Over time, warfare has the potential to radically reshape the worldwide economic and geopolitical structure via changes in energy commerce, reconfiguration of supply chains, fragmentation of payment networks, and reconsideration of nations' reserve currency holdings. The escalation of geopolitical tensions poses a heightened danger of economic fragmentation, particularly in the realms of trade and technology. The Arab area is expected to see significant repercussions due to the escalation of food and energy costs, as well as the constrained global financial circumstances. In Egypt, almost 80% of its wheat imports originate from Russia and Ukraine. Additionally, Egypt is a favoured tourism destination for visitors from both countries. However, it is expected that there would be a decrease in the amount of money spent by these tourists.

### **3. The influence of current economic difficulties on Arab national security**

Undoubtedly, there exist distinctions between the crisis economy and the war economy. Crises, in general, and economic crises, specifically, entail being exposed to a critical and unstable state or a pivotal moment within the economy. Consequently, swift action becomes imperative to address this situation. Neglecting to do so undoubtedly results in adverse material consequences and poses a threat to existing economic interests. Therefore, prompt interventions are necessary to halt the abrupt deterioration in the economic condition.

Regarding this matter, it is evident that the economy is now experiencing a crisis. If the economy experiences a dramatic downturn in one or all its economic sectors, resulting in an imbalance and posing a danger to accomplishing economic objectives, this naturally raises the likelihood of a larger portion of society falling below the poverty line. The presence of poverty, low-income levels, and increasing inequality in the economy contribute to a condition of economic slowness and stagnation. In more severe cases, as the crisis deepens, it may even lead to economic collapse.

Furthermore, we observe that as political and security instability worsens, there is a corresponding rise in violence and armed conflicts, as well as the intimidation of security forces and the destruction and sabotage of infrastructure within nations. Consequently, the economy is transitioning from a state of profound economic distress to a situation characterised by a war economy. In this context, a war economy refers to an economic

system that mobilises resources directly to address the tangible and intangible losses incurred from armed conflicts, whether they are internal or external in nature.

Within the war economy, all agencies and organisations are activated to manage the decline in security and economic circumstances, aiming to provide the essential commodities, services, and persons' necessities with minimal expenses and losses (Suwailem, 2016).

Undoubtedly, the political situation in Arab nations has had a significant impact on economic constraints, thereby affecting national security. This impact may be mitigated by considering the following:

#### **4. First - the security cost of containing and confronting violence.**

##### ***4.1 Internal and external conflicts and their impact on the economy***

The mechanisms for estimating the economic impacts and costs of violence vary according to the security and political conditions of the country, considering the diversity of these costs between tangible and intangible costs. The tangible cost means: the cost of loss of life and property, the medical costs of treating the wounded and injured, and the volume of spending on security institutions in the country. And losses resulting from interruption of production and loss of sources of income for institutions. As for intangible costs, they are defined as the costs associated with dealing with fear, pain, suffering, low levels of development, and low quality of life.

The International Organization for Economics and Peace was interested in presenting a new methodology to measure the costs arising from violence and conflicts between countries of the world, by trying to estimate the amount of spending allocated to containing violence, considering the number of 13 different types of violence and conflicts within countries, and the possibility of comparison between countries at different economic levels. Based on what this methodology stipulates, the amount of spending allocated to containing violence is defined as “the amount of spending on activities related to confronting the consequences of violence and conflicts, and activities directed to preventing and protecting from conflicts,” so that an increase in this spending would lead to an increase in the restrictions imposed on the country’s economic growth. This is reflected in a decrease in financial flows for productive and service activities that would raise the standard of living of the individual, increase the profitability of institutions, and improve the economic conditions of the state.

Second -Estimating the size of conventional spending to contain violence includes estimating the extent of the importance of spending on strengthening the state’s military power, spending on internal security protection devices to protect the state, and individuals’ spending on securing lives and property, in addition to the estimated cost of getting rid of murder crimes, premeditated murder crimes, and assaults on individuals, and the costs of Detention of individuals in prisons, the cost of fear of violent crimes, the costs of terrorist operations, internal conflicts, as well as external conflicts with other countries, as well as costs arising from the costs of the use of United Nations peacekeeping forces, refugee relief, and estimates of losses in gross domestic product during periods Violence and wars. To calculate the estimated total cost of containing violence and conflict; The tangible and intangible costs of various types and dimensions of interest violence are calculated, and then the “multiplier effect” on the economy resulting from the increase in this spending, which ranges from 2% to 8% of the country’s GDP (Al-Amayer, 2020)

##### ***4.2 Challenges faced by Arab economies in transitioning towards a period of recovery.***

The risks associated with pessimistic scenarios and the continuation of current conditions in the economies of Arab countries have noticeably increased. Consequently, it is imperative for these countries to act on security, political, and economic fronts in order to transition towards an optimistic scenario. This entails reducing levels of violence and local conflicts between nations, as well as implementing strategic plans to restore stability in countries experiencing unrest. It is crucial to safeguard the progress made in countries that are witnessing economic improvement (Ismail, 2020). Several problems may be recognised in the transition of Arab economies towards the recovery phase, as follows:

- 1- Obstacles associated with promoting economic growth and creating employment opportunities:
- 2- The governments of the present Arab nations may tackle difficulties pertaining to strategies for boosting the economy to augment income generation, revitalising private sector investments, and creating employment chances in the face of elevated unemployment rates. To do this, it is vital to foster the creation of small and medium-sized firms and ensure they have access to enough funding. Additionally, offering incentives and making investments are crucial. The economy relies on foreign direct investment inflows, re-export markets, and tourist inflows to provide a sufficient supply of foreign cash. The countries currently experiencing violence and conflict face significant obstacles such as being isolated from international markets, deteriorating relations with neighbouring countries and major trading partners, and a decrease in the purchasing power of their local currency.
- 3- This obstacle hinders the re-establishment of export markets, leading to increased costs for resuming trade relations. Consequently, export opportunities and job prospects in various productive sectors are affected, particularly in areas heavily impacted by the virus where business closures are prevalent. Hostilities. Furthermore, this failure exacerbates the susceptibility of neighbouring nations to violence, leading to increased economic burdens. These burdens include the apprehension of the conflict spreading to them and the expenses associated with providing care for the displaced individuals in those countries (Al-Amayer, 2020).
- 4- *The difficulties associated with constructing and upkeeping a nation's infrastructure and its influence on the economy.*
- 5- *Arab nations experiencing economic crises encounter distinct difficulties in upholding infrastructure and securing the required funding for its upkeep and modernization. These challenges encompass various essential services like roads, transportation, drinking water, sewage, electricity, and communications. This predicament is exacerbated by the substantial deficit in the state's overall budget and the diminishing pool of financial resources. Additionally, the exorbitant expenses associated with the importation of machinery and equipment required for maintenance. The expenses associated with rehabilitating fundamental infrastructure are substantial in the context of Arab nations experiencing violence or internal conflicts due to the entire devastation of these facilities and their subsequent isolation, necessitating their reconstruction. Hence, these nations may choose to borrow or seek foreign aid and grants. In order to address these requirements in the aftermath of armed conflicts and instances of violence, the ability of nations to secure international loans and grants is contingent upon the commitment of the conflicting parties to cease hostilities, establish a ceasefire, and minimise the likelihood of future conflicts between nations. The failure to achieve these objectives is evident in the ongoing deterioration of infrastructure conditions. The inadequate state of infrastructure in nations leads to a decline in the living standards and overall quality of life for people in society (Al-Dhawawi, 2018).*
- 6- *5- The difficulties associated with delivering healthcare and educational services to people and their effects on the economy:*
- 7- *Arab nations that have had some progress in their economic circumstances have difficulties in ensuring equitable access to healthcare and education, promoting*

*equal opportunities for their inhabitants, and enhancing their human capital development. In countries undergoing turmoil and widespread violence, the primary challenges they face are the exorbitant expenses associated with rehabilitating educational and healthcare facilities, such as schools, hospitals, medical centres, health institutions, and training centres. Additionally, the accumulation of human capital is disrupted due to the prolonged duration of violence and conflicts, which places significant economic strain on these countries.*

- 8- *Regarding this matter, it is found that the estimated cost of restoring educational services in Syria is approximately 120 million dollars, while health services are estimated to cost around 250 million dollars until the end of 2015 AD. This raises concerns about the feasibility of obtaining the necessary funding to restore human capital accumulation within Syria at the desired pace. Illustration (Bakoush, 2021).* The challenges associated with the redistribution of resources and the pursuit of distributional fairness have significant implications for the economy.
- 9- Arab nations have several issues concerning the equitable allocation of resources and the building of social justice. Hence, the consequences of the enhancement in economic growth rates permeate throughout all sectors of society without being confined to a particular demographic or group. The reallocation of resources is intricately connected to the prioritisation of government expenditure and the streamlining of expenditures to advance the state, enact institutional and administrative reforms, and provide social safety nets to attain the desired level of justice within the state. The prevalence of violence in politically unstable Arab nations is exacerbated by the absence of justice. As an example, the poverty rate is In Yemen, approximately 80% of the population experiences a lack of justice that is exacerbated by growing ethnic, religious, and political divisions among different groups. This is further compounded by limited resources within the economy, leading to increased disparities among various segments of society. Consequently, poverty, hunger, and disease rates rise, negatively impacting the country's human development, as well as health and educational indicators (Suwailem, 2016).
- 10- - Challenges related to the proliferation of corruption and exploitation of the circumstances of the war economy, and their repercussions on the economy:
- 11- Corruption poses a significant and complex problem for various sectors and government agencies in Arab countries. This is primarily because corruption incurs costs and is directly linked to the misallocation of resources and injustice towards citizens. It also undermines confidence in state institutions due to the abuse of power and the lack of accountability among individuals at different administrative levels. The declining reputation of the law and judicial institutions, together with the need to adopt legislative regulations that tackle conflicts of interest and misuse of power and influence. As a result, governments are taking measures to strengthen punishments that guarantee the decrease and elimination of individuals involved in instances of corruption. The difficulties are amplified in Arab nations where the level of violence is growing. The persistence of corruption from previous years has led to conflicts within fundamental state institutions. Additionally, a group has emerged that capitalises on the state of war and instability, seeking to gain control over ports, engage in smuggling, monopolise imports, engage in black market trade, manipulate the economy, and profit from informal monopolies. Consequently, the challenges associated with addressing these issues are growing. These manifestations are eradicated, considering the potential for ongoing bloodshed in the nation (Al-Saadi, 2016).
- 12- The difficulties posed by globalisation in generating economic instability and the magnitude of its influence on security and the economy:

In the twenty-first century, dangers have expanded beyond military ones, and the state is no longer the exclusive origin of these threats. It is important to acknowledge the influence

of financial crises on global security. Globalisation has led to the political, economic, social, and cultural interconnection of nations worldwide. Hence, the crises that originated in a specific nation can swiftly and effortlessly propagate to numerous countries. Financial crises precipitate a reduction in defence expenditures and the downfall of burgeoning nationalist governments, resulting in prolonged joblessness and pervasive destitution. These circumstances foster the emergence of radical and violent movements (Muhumed, 2020).

Economic globalisation has three primary implications for security interests. Firstly, it is eroding the distinction between the defence sector and the overall economy, necessitating the adoption of more efficient technologies to fully leverage the advantages of global economic linkages. Secondly, there is a growing need for enhanced preparedness to address the consequences of market instability. Lastly, numerous unresolved political dilemmas will impact the approach to handling economic matters in developing nations (Denoon, 2001)

## **5. Results**

1. Among the most important effects left by the political challenges that affected societal security in the Arab Organization are the negative economic effects and the spread of poverty and unemployment among the people of the Arab world.
2. The need for responsible authorities to address the negative economic conditions in the Arab countries because of their serious effects on the Arab world as a whole.
3. Reviewing the political conditions of the Arab countries in the recent period, especially after the rise in the price of the dollar, we find that there is a deterioration in the economic conditions of the Arab countries in recent years.
4. The high cost of containing violence and political conflicts in Arab countries has led to security and economic risks, especially with the varying ability of Arab economies to confront these risks and absorb their crises.
5. Political challenges are one of the main reasons for the weak economic balance, given the emergence of opposition groups that escalate acts of violence in the Arab region, which negatively affects security.
6. The Arab countries going through a difficult transition period leads to the leaders of Arab society demanding the need to achieve justice and achieve political reform to improve the economic conditions in the country.
7. Terrorism and globalization are among the most serious challenges facing Arab countries, due to their impact on the economic and security aspects of Arab society.
8. The Russia-Ukraine war led to a clear imbalance in the economic balance of the Arab countries, in addition to the bad security dimensions created by that war.

### ***5.1 Recommendations:***

1. The need for decision makers to develop solutions to political problems that in turn affect the economic and security aspects in Arab societies.
2. The need to address the concerned authorities responsible for the negative economic conditions in the Arab countries because of their serious effects on Arab societies, by strengthening the Arab economy.
3. The need for Arab governments to cooperate to eliminate terrorism and the negative effects of globalization and aid countries exposed to violence in an attempt to raise their economic level.
4. Spreading political and economic awareness among citizens in the Arab countries to try to get out of the economic impasse that the Arab countries are going through due to the war between Russia and Ukraine.
5. Trying to put in place measures to limit the excessive increase in the price of the dollar due to its impact on prices, Arab currencies, and the standard of living of individuals.

6. The need for the political authority to play its role in improving security and economic indicators.
7. The necessity of raising domestic savings and investment rates in Arab countries to confront any economic crises that arise within their societies.
8. The necessity of diversifying sources of non-oil revenues, trying to reduce government spending, and developing an economic reform policy to raise the level of income at the level of Arab countries.
9. Trying to establish regional cooperation agreements between Arab countries to confront other economic blocs.

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