THE ROLE OF IDENTITY IN THE CONFLICTS
IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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Abstract: *Regional security and identity in the Middle East have been tested for hundreds of years, as the region has constantly been caught in a clash of its own populations and values, compounded by external influences. Moreover, internal conflicts and external implications seem to continuously worsen and feed into each other. Thus, disputes over political, sectarian, religious, tribal, territorial, ideological, ethnic survival, and national interest matters combine and overlap. Many of the Middle Eastern states that maintained authority and turned it into dictatorship later lost legitimacy and became battlegrounds for regional and extra-regional powers eager to accumulate resources. Such states in the Middle East today function under imposed authorities that violate the principles of the identities that formed them.*

Keywords: *identity, conflict, multiculturalism, religion, Middle East.*

Introduction:

The Middle East is a complex and diversified region, with a vast and rich history characterized by impressive cultural diversity. The cultural demarcations in this area have a profound impact on local politics, economies, and societies. These demarcations are the result of historical, geographical, religious, and ethnic factors that interact in a complex manner. At the same time, the Middle East is both a compression zone and an intermediary or buffer zone between the dominant powers of the Indo-Pacific region and the Euro-Atlantic area, leading to political fragmentation and instability, divided internally and caught up in the competition between major powers and large geostrategic spaces.

The Middle East is the region of an ancient civilization, marked by diversity and discontinuity. Unity is not a characteristic of the Middle East, nor is regional security stability. There is no continuity in the history of the Middle East between the ancient and modern times. In antiquity, the Middle East was governed by multiple administrations that divided the regions and centers of power without many common elements such as a common language, script, or collective identity.

Globalization and modernization have begun to change the traditional cultural demarcations in the Middle East. Thus, technology, communication, and migration generated by globalization have facilitated the blending of different cultures and reduced isolation. Migration to large cities, adoption of modern technologies, and exposure to global cultures

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