

The Phenomenon of Customs Smuggling Between Iraq and Turkey During the Period 1921-1958: A Documented Historical Study

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After their founding, the two neighbouring countries of modern Iraq and Turkey faced many economic problems. The phenomenon of customs smuggling may be the most prominent of the problems suffered by the economies of the two countries. This phenomenon has expanded, spread, and worsened, resulting in bad returns, wasted money, and significant repercussions on the economies of the two countries. There is no independent academic study on what this phenomenon is, nor the reasons for its spread and the ways to combat it in this era of history. Thus, this study came to be entitled, "The Phenomenon of Customs Smuggling Between Iraq and Turkey during the period 1921-1958: A Documented Historical Study." After collecting the scientific material from its sources, three investigations were conducted. Preceded by an introduction and followed by a conclusion, we first discussed the phenomenon of customs smuggling between Iraq and Turkey during the period 1921-1958. Second, we examined the motives for smuggling and the reasons for its spread between the two countries during the period 1921-1958. And third, we examined smuggled goods and the goods between the two countries during the period 1921-1958. The conclusion summarised the results of the study.

Key words: *Customs Smuggling, Iraq, Turkey, Economic problems.*

Introduction

The phenomenon of customs smuggling was common in Iraq since ancient times, and the historical roots of this phenomenon may be traced to before the Second World War. This phenomenon was not known or common during the period of the Ottoman era, because there were no boundaries between the states of the Ottoman Empire, including Iraq. By virtue of its subjugation, it was determined and demarcated only for administrative matters (Hasan, 2017).

However, changes occurred after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire following the First World War (1914-1918).

The Problem of Study

The phenomenon of customs smuggling represents a major problem in the history of trade exchanges between the two neighbouring countries of Iraq and Turkey. This phenomenon may have expanded, spread, and worsened from the beginning of the twentieth century to 1958. It has had great repercussions on the economies of the two countries, wasting their money. Since there is no independent academic study dealing with this phenomenon, its effects, the reasons for its spread and ways to combat it in this era of the history of the two countries, we undertook this task.

The Aim of Study

The study aims to create a close and accurate picture of this negative commercial phenomenon in the recent history of these two neighbouring countries.

Previous Studies

1. Al-Sindi, 2014: This study examined the important axes of the phenomenon of customs evasion.
2. Ismail, 2009: This study examined some documents regarding the history of this phenomenon and its impact on trade.

The First Topic: The phenomenon of customs smuggling between Iraq and Turkey during the period (1921-1958)

The phenomenon of customs smuggling was common in Iraq since ancient times, and the historical roots of this phenomenon may be traced back to before the Second World War. This phenomenon was not known or common during the period of the Ottoman era, because there were no boundaries between the states of the Ottoman Empire, including Iraq. By virtue of its subjugation, it was determined and demarcated only for administrative matters (Hasan, 2017). However, changes occurred after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire following the First World War (1914-1918). The political developments that followed worsened the situation. Political entities, states, and kingdoms, independent of the Ottoman Empire emerged during this period, which witnessed the establishment of two independent modern states: the Iraqi Kingdom, which gained its independence from the Ottoman Empire and crowned Faisal I as its King in 1921; and the modern Turkish Republic, which was built on the ruins of the Ottoman Empire, and Mustafa Kemal Ataturk was chosen as its first president in 1923 (Longkerk, 2012).

Since their establishment, the two countries have inherited many political and economic problems, which have disturbed the friendly relations between them. The problem of demarcating the borders, the ownership of Mosul and Kirkuk, the Kurdish issue, the problem of water resources, and the phenomenon of customs smuggling are among the most prominent of these problems that face the two countries. Despite all these challenges, Iraqi-Turkish trade relations improved very slowly. Signs of this detente appeared between them after resolving the Mosul problem in favour of Iraq in 1926 AD, when discussions took place after fixing borders on economic issues, organising transit trade, and combating smuggling between the two countries (Al-Sufi, 2004). During this period, Iraqi trade witnessed remarkable progress, and Mosul has become the commercial heart of Iraq by exporting grains, livestock and other animals, which are very popular in neighbouring countries, especially Turkey, Syria and Iran (Al-Nuaimi, 2010).

This occurred despite the activity of the legal trade movement between Iraq, Turkey and other neighbouring countries during the monarchy. However, at the same time, they were not free from the customs smuggling trade, which expanded significantly in the period between the two world wars (1918-1939) due to the lack of an independent government agency that tracks the smugglers' movements along the Iraq-Turkey border. The Iraqi Customs Department merged the excise management in 1921 to form a single department, attached to the Ministry of Finance, and headed by a general manager linked to the minister. For the purpose of organising the work of these customs departments in Iraq, a ministry statement Finance No. 73 in S. of 1922 was issued, which provides for the appointment of Customs directors in Baghdad, Basra and Mosul, who are brought together to take over the responsibility of the Mosul Customs region in the North, and the follow-up work of Aloytha and Aqditha and its environs (Salih, 1977).

The door of smuggling between Iraq and Turkey remained wide open, especially during the period 1921-1926 due to the lack of armed patrols following the smuggling movement along the borders until the year 1926, when armed patrols were established for the first time, and started operating along Iraqi borders. Initially, this experiment achieved positive results in chasing the smugglers (Lanshovsky, 1986), and the customs and excise department became used in border areas, called coli messengers (Rashti, 1995). But they did not succeed in curbing the smugglers, and they did not have the ability to prevent and control border crossings during that period. Perhaps the weakness of government measures and regulatory agencies helped to spread this phenomenon and its continuation. The establishment of the customs police in Iraq was delayed to the year 1933 AD and only as an alternative to the users working in the Directorate of Customs and Excise from the Alkalai Couriers (Basri, 1984).

Customs police continued to suffer from a lack of individuals and armed mechanisms to complete its tasks, and there was a general weakness in cooperation between administrative

authorities and the local police in combating smuggling. There was also the absence of customs law number 56 for the year 1931 AD of strict legal procedures, which deterred smugglers and limited their activities. Article 144 of the aforementioned law vacated the prison sentence for smugglers, imposed a fine of no more than 75 dinars, and confiscated the smuggled money, which is an undoubtedly useless deterrent and punishment in limiting the activity of smugglers. Most of them were wealthy people, who were less affected by money confiscation and the imposition of financial penalties, which contributed to the continuation of the smuggling trade and its spread in Iraq during that period (Dawood,1982).

This occurred despite the fact that Turkish borders were closed to Iraqi trade activity in most of the period between the two world wars (1918-1939). However, smuggling operations from Iraq to Turkey remained and continued, which led the Iraqi government to take all possible measures to control the borders, combat smuggling, and protect industries. The local government, and in this context, the Iraqi government issued several laws to combat smuggling, including Law No. 9 in the year 1932, as well as the Customs Tariff Law No. 11 for the year 1933, in which high fees were imposed on imported luxury items. This was done in the hope of creating a desire for jewelry (Al-Samarraie, 1993); but the reality of the case indicates otherwise. This law has contributed to the increased prices of foreign goods in the Iraqi market, which encouraged smugglers to smuggle them into Iraq. This worsened the situation, so the government tried to rectify the matter, and take quick measures to control its borders with Turkey, limiting smuggling operations and tightening the screws on smugglers. In March, Customs Declaration No. 3 for the year 1935 AD was issued, and identified several methods through which only imported goods are imported into or removed from Iraq. The first of these methods involves the village of Sinat - Zakho - Mosul; and the second involves the village of Vishkhabur - Mosul (Al-Taie, 1998).

The Iraqi government has also made some customs amendments to the old laws, to be in harmony with the new economic conditions in Iraq, and to prevent and eliminate the spread of smuggling along Turkish borders. As the Iraqi government issued customs declaration number 25 for the year 1936, and with the pursuant authority vested in the Minister of Finance in Article 44 of Customs Law No. 56 for the year 1931, several official methods and outlets were thus designated. The fourth Ministry of Jamil Al-Madfai 1937-1938 emphasised in its curriculum that the National Assembly passed in 1938the livestock tax law that limited the phenomenon of smuggling (Langley, 1993), especially with the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, which spread in the regions of Kurdistan and Turkish border cities, such as Diyarbakir, Wan, and Meriden. Government forces in the Mosul district implemented this warning immediately, and reduced operations there (Al-Haris, 1993).

As a result of the Second World War (1939-1945 AD), the material conditions were disrupted, the economic conditions in Iraq deteriorated, and it was subjected to a suffocating economic

crisis, especially after the war intensified and expanded. Smuggling may have had a major role in exacerbating this economic problem, as Iraq suffered from a critical economic, due to the manipulation of merchants and monopolists regarding the prices of goods and merchandise and smuggling (Al-Hassani, 2003). Smugglers in northern Iraq during this period may have followed another means of smuggling. The Taurus Express train was one of the most prominent means by which various goods and materials between Iraq and Turkey and Iran were exchanged. Oil fat, light firearms and their equipment, hand watches, glass bottles, fabrics, alcoholic beverages and others are among the most prominent of these materials that went through Turkey towards Iraq, with lower prices than in Iraq. Cigarettes and dates are also considered, as well as molasses, sweets, gold, and precious stones of various kinds. Other materials of varying prices are also among the most prominent materials on this train from Iraq, especially from Baghdad and Mosul to Turkey and Syria (Al-Dulaimi, 1998). This affected the Iraqi economy, and created an acute economic crisis, so the Iraqi government continued its strict measures to reduce this phenomenon. It decided in the year 1942 to cut off smuggling and limit its procurement in Iraq, preventing the transfer of food commodities and necessary food goods to the brigades bordering the border smuggling areas (Fahmy, 2001).

At the same time, it granted the customs and excise police, as well as their informants, who helped them discover smuggling crimes, 40% of the smuggled goods. 10% of those materials were allocated for distribution to the rest of the police and customs affiliates (Al-Jurani, 1993). Despite this smuggling increased during the years of the global economic crisis, so that a week did not pass without clashes between local police on the one hand, and smugglers on the other, in different hours of the night (Al-Nahas, 1999).

It was not until the year 1943 A.D. that the phenomenon of smuggling expanded in Iraq, and the attention of smugglers turned to the livestock smuggling trade, which was spreading widely, and exacerbated the economic crisis in the country; which required the intervention of the Iraqi government to take measures to reduce the spread of this phenomenon. It issued the Law regulating Economic Life No. 41 for the year 1943 AD, which restricted the movement of livestock to within Iraqi regions, and did not allow anyone to transport them except through a special monthly leave issued by the Ministry of Interior to their owners (Al-Natoor, 1999). In a later step to curb smuggling, the government announced the 1944 Methods for the passage of freedom of transit trade between Iraq and neighbouring countries, including the State of Turkey, which was identified by several official outlets. The most prominent was the Sanat Zakho connector, via the village of Fishkhabour Mosul (Zuwayed, 1998).

These government measures were unable to achieve its goals in reducing the phenomenon of smuggling and high prices in the country, so the government faced severe criticism from deputies and national powers regarding the economic deterioration in Iraq, its inability to combat high prices, the monopoly of food supplies, and the effectiveness of its measures, which

received the public's dissatisfaction (Al-Sanadi, 2014). The Ministry of Supply was created under the Ministry's System No. 67 of the year 1944. It included many divisions attached to the General Supply Directorate, as well as five general directorates. The local product directorate restricts the trafficking of grains, speculation and monopoly, and limits their smuggling (Othman, 2008). One of the duties of the Supply Police Directorate was to prevent smuggling and monopoly, and to control all violations, which are committed against the economic laws of the state relating to imports and supply (Al-Jubouri, 2000).

The Ministry of Supply has taken serious steps to combat smuggling. In a later step it decided to increase the gratitude granted to informants of smuggling crimes to the ratio of 50% and circulated this according to its publication in October 1944. It also decided to implement the card system given to all families through agents, which was a serious attempt by the government to eliminate the supply crisis and fight smuggling (Al-Aqidi, 2011). The Ministry of Supply has taken upon itself the responsibility of solving the economic problem, and eliminating the phenomenon of rampant smuggling in the country, so it was hoped that these reforms would lead to the advancement of the deteriorating Iraqi economy and the solution of the supply crisis. However, mistakes that were not reckoned with prevented this, and perhaps Pachachi referred to this miserable situation in his response to the House of Representatives in 1944. He said: "The catering has pages and roles that are neither pleased nor delighted, and they arise from mistakes that have been committed" (Abbas, 2011), and "this war was not reckoned with, and that the ministry, when it assumed responsibility, found supply issues Confused, annoying, intertwined, and the methods taken to fix it, are not appropriate And it is not consistent with our economic and psychological state, until supply is about to become a dangerous machine for morals." Then he added to his words by referring to the reasons that led to the ministry's failure to solve the stifling supply problem and its aftermath. He said: "There is no period for this ministry to be dealt with by the amendment and patching and then resignation. For seven months circulation on the supply four ministers shared in this ministry the failure, Unless the ministry is stable, we cannot have a stable administration." (Abdul Latif, 2003).

It seems that the more the Iraqi market lacks goods, and the higher their prices, the greater the desires and needs of people. This contributed to the activity of the smuggling movement on a large scale, and so it is the case, that the activity of smugglers increased significantly in the last period of the year 1945. Thus, they were a reason for the persistence of supply problems in Iraq (Nazir, 1993), as the years after the Second World War (1946-1948) witnessed remarkable activity in smuggling the necessary goods and commodities from Iraq to the neighbouring countries. The country witnessed during the Ministry of Arshad Al-Omari (1946) a wave of high prices in various foods. This accompanied the falling purchasing power of the common people, due to unemployment and high prices, which contributed to the spread of the smuggling phenomenon (Al-Osaili, 2004), until it became a general feature and an open practice by large

merchants alongside senior state employees and their agents, without fear or shame (Karim, 2007). In response, the government took measures to eradicate the phenomenon of smuggling in the country, and the Ministry of the Interior granted all members of the police and the army financial rewards amounting to 40% of the money confiscated in 1945. At the same time, it also imposed provisions ranging from imprisonment and fines to all those found guilty of smuggling. Mosul courts sentenced one of the smugglers to thirty days in prison for smuggling fabrics to neighbouring countries (Al-Zubaidi, 2008).

The Iraqi government did not stop fighting the phenomenon of smuggling at home, but rather tried to strangle the smugglers and limit their activities abroad; especially after the end of the Second World War, as the government tried to control its northern borders, and was keen on continuing contacts with the Turkish side to secure the borders between the two countries (Hasan, 2017). The treaty of friendship and good-neighbourliness between the two sides headed by Nuri Al-Saeed in (1946 AD), and smuggling operations between the two sides may have expanded in later periods, especially after the outbreak of smuggling oil derivatives to Turkey at exorbitant prices (Longkrek, 2012). This led to a sudden and large increase in the price of gasoline in Iraq. The Iraq Oil Company was responsible for meeting the needs of the citizens since 1932. It was buying oil from the Khanaqin Oil Company and selling it to citizens at limited prices. The Al-Huda newspaper published its report on this phenomenon in its issue on the first day of June 1947 (Al-Sufi, 2004). In a later step to avoid smuggling operations between the two sides, it was agreed to hold periodic meetings for cooperation and information exchange between the Iraqi and Turkish customs agencies (Al-Nuaimi, 2010). The two sides provided each other with lists of employees at the borders, and the names included district managers. This meeting was held between the two parties in the district of Zakho in 1948 (Karim, 2007).

And as soon as the Second World War put its burdens on national groups, the popular, parliamentary and press circles, as well as the Mosul Chamber of Commerce, requested the Swedish Prime Minister to cancel the Ministry of Supply due to its failure to perform its duties. The Cabinet decided to agree to its abolition, and issued Law No. 7 for the year 1948 (Abdel Salam, 2004), however, this cancellation was truncated legally, due to a lack of consent by the guardian and the approval of the National Assembly (Al-Zubaidi, 2008). In the 1950s, the smuggling movement was widely active between Iraq and Turkey, and the representatives of the northern regions held the government responsible for its expansion in 1951 (Al-Osaili, 2004). The activities of smugglers in the livestock trade expanded greatly during this period, especially those clans residing in the Iraqi border areas, which had no natural border between them and the Turkish territories (Al-Nahhas, 2002). This facilitated the work of smugglers, and the matter remained in effect until a statement was issued. The Ministry of Finance No. 84 in 1952 stipulated a ban on imports and exports between Iraq and Turkey (Al-Nahhas, 2009).

The meeting reviewed the necessary measures to eliminate this phenomenon, and worked to implement a plan to combat it, beginning on (15) July 1957 and ending in November 1957 (M). Support for this campaign, a readiness to provide the necessary assistance to implement this campaign Plan, put an end to the phenomenon of smuggling in the border areas (Abbas, 2011).

The Second Topic: The motives for smuggling and the reasons for its spread between the two countries during the period 1921-1958:

Although the phenomenon of customs smuggling is one of the crimes that affects the national economy of both countries, the motive for its commission differs from one person to another and from one group to another. The most important reasons and motives during the period 1921 - 1958 can summarised as follows:

1- The weakness of public awareness and the national status of individuals, their prioritisation of personal interests over public interests, and their lack of awareness that the geographical and political borders of the state are closed fences, and may not be penetrated except through customs ports, and with the payment of taxes and fees imposed by the constitution, which aims to protect the national economy, and achieve the general and supreme interests of the country (Al-Sanadi, 2014).

2- The nature of the adjacent border areas between the two countries greatly encouraged customs smuggling operations, as the length, breadth and extent of the borders extends to vast and sprawling distances of approximately 389 km, absent of natural beams and barriers and high and sealed terrain separating them (Othman, 2008). The smuggling trade between them was also facilitated by the smugglers' continuous attempts to adapt to those natural factors, and exploit them to achieve their criminal goals and objectives, and the inability of the border crossing points to absorb the increasing movement of imported goods. The other factor is the widespread prevalence of this negative commercial phenomenon between the two countries (Al-Sufi, 2004).

3- The desire to get rich quickly is one of the most prominent motives behind the behaviours of some individuals to find unlawful ways and means to obtain abundant material profits. The higher the profit, the greater the incentive for smuggling (Al-Jubouri, 2000). The spread of poverty and unemployment are among the most prominent social pillars of smuggling in the world (Fahmy, 2001); therefore, most of the activists in smuggling operations between Iraq and Turkey were hired people who smuggled as a profession, and who received in exchange for smuggling goods specific wages. Most of the smugglers were wealthy, and were not greatly affected by the confiscation of their funds, or the imposition of financial penalties on them (Hasan, 2017).

4- Weak central control and customs control of the Iraqi state, as a result of the low physical condition of border police personnel, low salaries and their inability to meet the needs of their families, which forced them to compensate by accepting bribes, and thereby contribute to the spread of administrative corruption. With the involvement of senior officials in the administration in smuggling operations, their income from their activities increased, alongside the bribes charged, which greatly exacerbated the phenomenon of smuggling, and the activity of smugglers between the two countries (Al-Zubaidi, 2008).

5- The weakness of customs agencies, especially in the early years of the establishment of the Iraqi state, the lack of sufficient numbers of individuals, the government's failure to monitor the borders, and its lack of modern media equipped with live ammunition to track the smugglers, who have developed their capabilities and tactics, as well as poor cooperation between the administrative authorities and the local police, contributed to the exacerbation of this phenomenon in the country during that period (Abbas, 2011).

6- Despite the large number of judicial systems and laws issued against perpetrators of customs smuggling crimes in Iraq during the mentioned period, they were not sufficient, and lacked the strict legal procedures that might deter smugglers and limit their activities, which contributed to the spread of this bad economic phenomenon in the country (Al-Hassani, 2003).

The Third Topic: smuggled goods and goods between the two countries during the period (1921-1958)

The goods and merchandise with which the smugglers traded included foodstuffs and livestock of all kinds, as well as tobacco and cigarettes, which were among the most prominent of these commodities and were famous in the customs smuggling trade between the two countries during the study period. For the sake of identifying the most prominent smuggled goods between the two countries during the mentioned period, we will outline it (Al-Natoor, 1999) in the following sections.

Foodstuffs

Foodstuffs, especially imported ones such as sugar, tea and coffee, as well as grains, fats and meat are among the most prominent of these materials that have been subjected to continuous smuggling between Iraq and its neighbouring countries in the period mentioned (Hasan, 2017). As the economic situation in Iraq deteriorated and a stifling economic crisis occurred in the country (Al-Nuaimi, 2010), smuggling is perhaps one of the most prominent factors that increased the severity of its supply problems. The war years witnessed remarkable activity in smuggling food from Iraq to Turkey and the neighbouring countries (Al-Taie, 1998). Smuggling become the profession of traders and senior staff, who had the audacity to use their

means of transport and government transportation in the smuggling of food supplies to Turkey and neighbouring countries where prices are attractive (Al-Jubouri, 2000).

The situation has become more critical in Iraq, with the higher prices of necessities and goods in the countries bordering Iraq, especially Turkey. The Turkish borders extend to about 389 km, and have witnessed abuses by smugglers, whose smuggling has been limited mainly to commodities and limited circulation goods, which can only be imported or exported (Karim, 2007). Therefore, smuggling in the years following the global war was one of the factors that exacerbated the supply problem in Iraq, as smuggling operations outside Iraq contributed significantly to the food shortage, and its scarcity in local markets. Demand from abroad increased the activity of smugglers, so traders with the help of senior employees smuggled thousands of tons of materials needed outside Iraq during that period (Al-Nahas, 2009).

This is due to the fact that the prices of food in Iraq during the years of the Second World War and its aftermath are relatively cheaper than the prices of their counterparts in the rest of the neighbouring countries. Weak central control (Hasan, 2017), the involvement of senior government administration employees in smuggling operations, and their neglect to control the Iraqi-Turkish borders, contributed to the continuation of this phenomenon, and its spread (Longkrek, 2012). Perhaps one of the reasons behind the bread crisis that the country witnessed in the second half of the year 1947 was the increase in the smuggling of large quantities of wheat and barley out of Iraq (Al-Nuaimi, 2010). Perhaps one of the mistakes committed by the government that contributed to creating this crisis was that it granted grain export licenses to large groups of monopolists, smugglers and influential people (Al-Hassani, 2003), who were shipping tens of thousands of tons abroad, in cooperation with the Andrew Ware Company. In doing so, they made rich and enormous profits at the expense of the destitute forces, the citizens, and the devastation of the Iraqi economy (Al-Sufi, 2004).

During the era of the Ministry of Mzajah Al-Beja J (1948 AD), the government took a number of effective measures to address the problem of food and clothing, and one of these measures related to smuggling were the restrictions imposed on the export of barley (Al-Sanadi, 2014). However, it lasted until later years until the fall of the monarchy, which had the effect of raising prices, exhausting the people and growing the black market (Al-Jubouri, 2000)

Livestock

Animal wealth is one of the most fundamental pillars of the economies of countries, so this phenomenon existed between Iraq and Turkey during the study period, as the people have been used for decades to introduce their sheep to Mosul through Turkish lands (Fahmy, 2001), as there were no separating borders between the two countries. Thus, Iraqi tribes often graze their sheep in the evergreen Turkish regions, especially in the border areas, then return to their homes

in Iraq in the early fall of each year. They bring with them Turkish goods, merchandise and sheep for consumption and trading on a local scale. These merchants have continued It exists throughout the interwar period (Al-Hassani, 2003).

This may have contributed to the spread of this phenomenon and the presence of an old commercial legacy between the merchants of Mosul and the merchants of neighbouring countries, as this legacy in turn moved from the grandparents to the grandchildren in the post-establishment period of the Iraqi kingdom (Abdul Latif, 2003). Thus, the phenomenon of livestock smuggling expanded between the Mosul Brigade and Turkey, especially after the Iraqi government prevented the export of horses and mules to Turkish lands, due to the instability of political conditions and the stalemate between the two countries (Karim, 2007). Therefore, the Iraqi government issued a warning to the clans residing in the Mosul Brigade in the year (1938 AD), from going with their animals to Turkish lands in regions including Diyarbakir, Mardin, Wan and other Turkish cities adjacent to the northern Iraqi border. The district mayor and district administrator of the Mosul Brigade have been tasked with warning tribes and limiting smuggling operations (Abdel Salam, 2004). The government also tried in 1945 to end smuggling operations in Iraq, so it decided to prevent the movement of livestock, ghee and butter to the brigades bordering Iraq's borders with neighbouring countries, such as Mosul, Erbil, Diyala, and Dulaim, except with special permission issued by the Ministry of Interior (Al-Nahas, 2009).

These multiple government measures to combat smuggling did not achieve their goals in eliminating livestock smuggling between Iraq and Turkey, so they continued throughout the 1950s (Hasan, 2017). On June 28, 1956, the Sheriff of the Kamrak and Makhos Zakho police station found 694 male sheep, and 11 cows that were smuggled in the company of people from Mosul and some Turkish nationals, and a radio observer, Kani Attar. They were arrested during the patrol near the headquarters of the convoy and the goods were confiscated (Al-Sanadi, 2014). As was done on October 22 from in the same year, a number of smugglers were arrested, near the village of Dishtsamak, seven kilometres from the Turkish border. They were accompanied by 92 heads of sheep and 68 goats, which were confiscated (Al-Aqidi, 2011).

Tobacco and Cigarettes

Iraqi national tobacco and cigarettes are also among the most prominent commodities and goods that were traded and smuggled into Turkish territory during the study period, due to their quality and low prices compared to those in Turkish markets. This phenomenon has revived between the two countries. The way of Mosul - Zakho - Vishkhabur - Deira Bon, then Turkish territory, is one of the most prominent of these known methods of smuggling tobacco and Iraqi cigarettes (Al-Osaili, 2004).



The fourth and fifth decades of the twentieth century witnessed the growth of this phenomenon between Iraq and Turkey, which necessitated the intervention of the Iraqi government to combat it and limit its spread. The Customs and Excise magazine has published many reports of customs smuggling incidents in Mosul, Kirkuk and Zakho. In 1956 AD, the customs authorities found 15 Salah notebooks, 1890 Skyer Al-Sham paper notebooks, 30 Skyer Al-Rasheed paper notebooks, and 62 Skyer paper bookmarks, while the customs authorities in Kirkuk confiscated 30 smuggled tobacco bales, each weighing 2350 kilograms (Al-Zubaidi, 2008).

Conclusion

It is a dangerous phenomenon, and it has negative repercussions on the economies of the two countries. It has harmed economic development projects and created a stifling economic crisis for the two countries.

Despite all the measures taken by successive Iraqi governments, they have not succeeded in eliminating them, or limiting their activities, so they have to spread.

Many factors and reasons have contributed to the spread of smuggling between the two countries, weak religious and patriotic fear, desire for rapid wealth, widening borders and their extension, weak central control, customs control, widespread administrative and financial corruption of state agencies, and the lack of Iraqi judicial systems to deter sanctions.

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