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The Political and Economic Effects of Corona Pandemic on The National State: Kuwait as a Model

الآثار السياسية والاقتصادية لجائحة كورونا على دولة الوطنية
الكويت نموذجاً

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الملخص:

هدفت هذه الدراسة إلى معرفة الآثار السياسية والاقتصادية لجائحة كورونا على دولة الوطنية لدولة الكويت نموذجاً الناتجة عن جائحة كورونا المستجد الذي انتشر على مستوى عالمي واثراً مباشراً على الدول العربية، ومنها دولة الكويت التي تأثرت على الصعيد الاقتصادي والسياسي، ومن خلال استخدام المنهج الوصفي التحليلي، فقد توصلت الدراسة إلى أن هناك نتائج سلبية على الجانب السياسي المتمثلة بضعف المشاركة السياسية وتفاجئ أجهزة الدولة مع هذه الجائحة مما أربك المؤسسات الرسمية للتعامل معها في البداية والذي أثر على موقفها السياسي الشعبي، كما أثرت اقتصادياً بسبب بتعطيل العملية الاقتصادية وكذلك حاجتها إلى السيولة التي أدت إلى ارتفاع نسبة الدين العام كنسبة من إجمالي الناتج المحلي. ومن التوصيات؛ ضرورة العمل على مكافحة انتشار فيروس كورونا بين أفراد المجتمع. وضرورة العمل على تعزيز موقف النظام السياسي والاقتصادي الكويتي الرسمي واتخاذ إجراءات والسياسات اللازمة التي تكفل لمواجهة هذا الوباء.

الكلمات الدالة: السياسة، اقتصاد، جائحة كورونا، الدولة، الكويت

ABSTRACT

This study aimed to investigate the political and economic effects of the Corona pandemic on the national state of Kuwait as a model. These effects have resulted from the pandemic of the new Coronavirus that has universally spread and directly affected Arab countries, like Kuwait, on both political and economic levels. By using the descriptive analytical approach, the study concluded that there is negative impact on the political level, represented by weak political participation and the state's lack of readiness to deal with this pandemic from the very beginning, which affected its communal political position. It also affected economy due to the disruption of the economic process as well as its need for liquidity which in its turn increased the government debt as a percentage of the gross domestic product. Among the recommendations the study introduces are; ceasing the spread of the Coronavirus among individuals of society, reinforcing the Kuwaiti political and economic system, and considering the necessary procedures and policies to confront this pandemic.

Key words: Politics, Economy, Corona Pandemic, The State, Kuwait.

- Introduction:

Human societies have greatly suffered from disasters that have affected many aspects of life, whether they are related to health, economy, politics, society, etc. Also it is worth noting that these disasters have involved two sides; the first side is those disasters that are triggered by humans like wars, blockades, political tensions, and international crises, and there are disasters

related to the environment itself, such as floods, hurricanes, volcanoes, and so on.

Nevertheless, there are disasters that involve both man-made disasters, and environmental or natural disasters, such as those caused by viral epidemics and widespread diseases. One of the most important epidemic disasters is the Corona pandemic (COVID-19). This pandemic has led the entire world to take the utmost caution and set procedures as well as taking all preventive

measures to reduce the effect of this pandemic, which has quickly spread to reach all countries of the world stemming first from the Chinese city of Wuhan.

COVID-19 is the new generation of Corona virus that appeared in earlier periods of the last century, but COVID-19 is rapidly spreading and harming human life, and has put hundreds of thousands to death; yet no international system or union in this world has been able to come up with a final perfect cure for this disease. This fact proves that none of the global systems is immune to disasters and crises, including Arab countries and the Arab Gulf states in specific where the frequency of corona-virus infection has escalated very dramatically, as in the State of Kuwait, which was greatly affected by this pandemic, the same way countries of the region and the whole world were.

It is worth noting that the Corona pandemic has cast its shadow over all areas of life, most importantly are the fields of politics and economics. Kuwait, which is the case of this study, was not immune to what happened in this world and its political and economic systems were clearly affected by the Corona pandemic, especially that its economy represents an integral part of the global economy system. Hence, this study comes to shed light on the most important economic impacts on Kuwait as a result of the newly emerging Corona pandemic.

- The Study Problem:

Today, contemporary societies suffer from the pandemic of the newly emerging Corona, including the State of Kuwait, which is the case of this study, but the effects of the Corona remain not explicitly clear, especially that it is still continuing to this day and the world has not found any way to end this epidemic. The world also has witnessed a sense of ambiguity about the pandemic regarding the extent of its impact on the most prominent areas of life; politics

and economy, in many countries of the world, including the State of Kuwait.

It is worth mentioning that Kuwait has suffered different regional and Arab crises over many years, and today it suffers the aftermaths of the Corona pandemic on the political and economic levels. However, the negative relationship between Corona and the Kuwaiti political and economic path was not explicitly clear, which led to the emergence of a research problem through which researchers seek to reveal this relationship and explain the effects of this pandemic on the Kuwaiti political and economic levels. The study problem is concerned with the political and economic effects of the Corona pandemic on Kuwait.

- The Study Questions:

The study problem is represented in the following questions:

The main question of the study: What are the political and economic effects of the Corona pandemic on the State of Kuwait?

This question includes several sub-questions as follows:

- What is the Corona pandemic?
- What are the political effects of the Corona pandemic on Kuwait?
- What are the economic effects of the Corona pandemic Kuwait?

- The Study Hypotheses:

- There is a negative relationship between the Corona pandemic and the political issue in Kuwait.
- There is a negative relationship between the Corona pandemic and the economic crisis in Kuwait.

- The Study Objectives:

This study aims to identify the political and economic effects of the Corona pandemic on Kuwait.

This goal includes several sub-goals as follows:

- Explaining what the Corona pandemic is.
- Revealing the political effects of the Corona pandemic on Kuwait.
- Revealing the economic effects of the Corona pandemic on Kuwait.

- The Study Significance:

Scientific significance: The Corona pandemic constitutes a global dilemma that has greatly affected the all aspects of life, especially in the Arab countries where the infection rates of the Corona virus has escalated. The Arab Gulf countries were affected at the political and economic level, specifically the State of Kuwait, which is the case of this study. The scientific importance of the study stems from analyzing the effects of the emerging Corona pandemic and its repercussions on the economic and political path of the State of Kuwait, and identifying the relationship between this pandemic and the economic and political path in Kuwait, depending on the available scientific sources and using the appropriate scientific method that reveals that ambiguity.

Practical significance: This study seeks to create an accurate scientific article that points out the effects of the Corona pandemic on political and economic standards in the State of Kuwait. It also uses accurate research and scientific foundations and methods that will lead to resolving the study problem and answering its questions to reach its final results that will represent a scientific basis to be applied on several cases in the Arab region.

- The Study Methodology:

For the study procedures, the researchers relied on the descriptive and analytical approach which can be defined as a method of analysis based on sufficient and accurate information about a specific phenomenon or topic over an identified period of time in

order to obtain practical results that are interpreted in an objective manner and consistent with the actual data of the phenomenon. Others define it as "a way to describe the subject to be studied through a correct scientific methodology and to visualize the finding as expressive numerical forms that can be interpreted." Also, the descriptive analytical is based on a comprehensive description of the study's variables, concepts and dimensions, and then analyzes the relationships that link between the Corona pandemic and its negative effects on the political and economic level in the State of Kuwait.

- The Related Theory:

Systems Analysis Approach: David Easton transferred it to the political science in his search for a methodological framework for political research and studies. This approach is considered one of the most used methodological frameworks in the study of internal and external political activity. It is also called the General Theory of Systems Analysis. The general foundations of the systems analysis framework are: the system concept is considered as the unit of analysis, the political system, being a network of political interactions, persists in its environment interacting with it in a reciprocal manner (i.e. give and take) in a sense that the system affects and is affected by the environment, it is based on interdependence, and that the system has borders (Easton, 1957, p383-400). The interaction between the system's constituent units as well as between the system and its surroundings (i.e. the degree of interdependence) is considered the essence of the idea. The persistence and continuity are the ultimate ideal or final purpose of any system; since the political system works to ensure its endurance, but stability does not preclude change, rather change is synonymous with adaptation, that is, the system is able to adapt according to its surrounding changes and by making simple changes in the political organization or

policies only, and that deliberate change is a change for stability. And to clarify the inputs and outputs, the study depends on the input and output model of David Easton.

- The Study Limitations:

- Objective limitations: refer to studying the Corona pandemic and its political and economic effects on the national state; Kuwait is a model.
- Time limitations: The research study begins with investigating the role of the emerging Corona pandemic and its effects on the Kuwaiti political and economic aspects during the time period starting from the beginning of the emergence of the Corona virus during the year 2020, which is the date the Corona pandemic appeared in the Chinese city of Wuhan and spread all over the globe.
- Spatial limitations: The study is limited to studying the State of Kuwait.

- The Study Terms and Concepts:

The researchers adopted procedural concepts that are appropriate for the study field in this topic:

Effects: they are all negative or positive consequences of an event, issue or epidemic.

Political effects: The results that the Corona pandemic has had on the political activities of the country.

Economic effects: The consequences resulting from the spread of the Corona virus, such as the closure of the country's vital economic sectors.

Corona pandemic: It is the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic all over the world, which caused a huge transmission of infection among people and then

transmission among countries and in countries.

The national country: It is every political entity in the region where people enjoy sovereignty and independence within certain limits.

- The Literature Review:

Under the title "Economics in the Time of COVID-19," the study of Baldwin, R., & Mauro, (2020) aimed to know the effects of COVID-19 on economy, as it spreads economic hardship all over the world. In fact, the virus may be as economically contagious as it is medically. After joining the OECD's steep growth projections on March 2nd, 2020, the European Commission said on March 4th, 2020 that Italy and France are at risk of sliding into recession, and the International Monetary Fund said it expects "more serious" prospects for the world economy in the future.

The study conducted by Khan & Faisal (2020) stated that since March 3rd, 2020, the main objective for research has been to study the Coronavirus epidemic in the world and its effects on the Chinese economy. Although the Coronavirus cases decreased, new cases arose despite the state's fighting for control it. WHO experts in China are cooperating to figure out a way to combat this epidemic disease. That led to the discontinuance of all schools and colleges and that all social activities in the country were banned. Also, all factories and airports in the country were closed and all travels to China were stopped. The Chinese state has become in a hustle and bustle. All development programs of the country have been closed for further development activities.

The study of Poornima & Suumresh Kar (2020) tackled the impact of Corona pandemic in India. It stated that the epidemic in general is not just a serious public health concern rather it leads to devastating social, economic and political

crises in affected countries. The closure of sectors across the country has affected both people and government. Thus, the economy has been greatly affected by the epidemic. The study concluded that the government should submit a bill in Parliament to ensure safety that includes food, shelter and clothing in such an unexpected pandemic. Creating a registrar for migrant workers is a good step in alleviating problems related to migrant workers.

The Brun, & Feuer (2020) study on Corona and the Middle East also showed that the virus made its way across the Middle East, forcing countries to prepare for a possible collapse of their regimes. The virus has infected an area that is already suffering armed conflicts, social unrest, severe economic turmoil and identity-related clashes. Data on the Corona prevalence is not accurate or reliable enough, and each system seeks to mitigate the consequences of the epidemic, and for the time being it appears that governments across the region have the public support in doing so. However, the region might suffer from uncontrolled outbreaks, exacerbating endemic problems in the region, and in some cases leading to a level of chaos that would be difficult for regimes to control.

The study of Kraus et al (2020) revealed that within a very short period of time, the global epidemic caused by the new Coronavirus hasn't only killed many people, but has also caused severe restrictions on daily private life as well as business; that almost every company has been affected in one way or another. The study methodology was based on developing a qualitative exploratory research based on 27 semi-structured interviews with the main informants of family businesses of all sizes in five countries in Western Europe going through different stages of the pandemic. It found that the COVID-19 pandemic represented a new, existential and challenging kind of disease for companies. The study's findings showed how companies in all industries and

of all sizes adapt their business models to changing environmental conditions within a short period of time. The results also show that the pandemic is causing a major unintended cultural change. On the one hand, stronger solidarity and unity is observed within the company, while on the other hand, the pandemic has led to a temporary digitization of workers.

In a survey, Müller & Rau (2020) examined the effect of economic preferences on compliance and perception during the Corona pandemic. The results showed that economic preferences greatly influence citizens' compliance with pandemic policies. Negatively carrying risks affects citizens avoiding crowds, while patience helps to avoid crowds and stay at home. Biased subjects are also involved in evoking panic. Negative risk tolerance is associated with the threat of Corona. Collecting data about the pandemic allows us to derive causality and valuable insights for managing crisis by defining the targeted groups or areas to allocate medical or natural resources.

What distinguishes this study is that it differs from previous studies in terms of the country as a case of the study and the Arab region in general.

- The Study Sections:

This research study discusses the political and economic effects of the Corona pandemic (COVID-19) on the State of Kuwait as a case study, which can be applied to other countries of the world, including the Arab countries in general, and the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council in particular. Here's an accurate division of this study:

- **First: The general framework of the study; it is divided into two parts:**
 - What is the Corona pandemic (a historical overview)?
 - Its impact on some Arab countries in general.

- **Second: The political effects of the Corona pandemic on the State of Kuwait.**
- **Third: The economic effects of the Corona pandemic on the State of Kuwait.**
- **Results and recommendations.**

First: The general framework of the study:

This framework deals with what the Corona pandemic is and its impact on some Arab countries in general.

1. What is the Corona pandemic?

The world suffers from the spread of epidemics that negatively affect the lives of all people, and those who follow the dilemmas of epidemics in this world along the past years find that there are several epidemics that disrupted some forms of life and its different sectors. The Swine Influenza disease was an example of these epidemics, followed by Avian Influenza, and other epidemics that had spread on a global level and affected the foundations and standards of all human life, which we are witnessing today also during the pandemic of the newly emerged Corona (COVID-19).

The emerging Corona virus was defined as "a large family of viruses that may cause disease in animals and humans. There are a number of corona viruses that cause human respiratory infections that range from common colds to more severe diseases such as the severe acute respiratory pandemic in the Middle East (SARS), And the newly discovered Coronavirus causes Corona disease; COVID-19" (UNRWA, 2020).

It is worth noting that the Corona virus didn't suddenly appear in the end of 2019 and consequently spread widely in 2020 (Rabadan, 2020), rather it is a virus that had first appeared in 1960 but it was controlled at that time because of its narrow

spread. The Corona virus in 1960 caused respiratory infections between birds in general and hens in particular, and then began to infect humans. At that time, this virus was called as (HCOV-229E), and globally controlled. In 2003, the virus appeared again and progressively among people causing them colds and affecting their resistance to the disease, it was called (SARS-COV), and its effects fluctuated between medium and serious in 2004 and 2005 (Rashid, 2020).

In 2012, various outbreaks of the Corona virus appeared in the Middle East, which led to the emergence of breathing problems in separate areas of the region. The World Health Organization confirmed that (60%) of those infected with this virus might die, which classified it as a fatal virus (Arabi and others, 2014). This virus was called the Corona virus of the Middle East Corona syndrome; as this virus resembled the virus that appeared at the beginning of the third millennium, except that the Corona virus for the Middle East syndrome was more severe, dangerous and more deadly for some clinical cases as it affected the respiratory system with symptoms of fever, cough, shortness of breath, muscle pain and malaise, and serious psychological impact on patients (Hui et al., 2018). Soon, the World Health Organization in partnership with a number of Middle Eastern countries, most notably the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, took measures to confront this epidemic in 2013, and right away the spread of the disease was controlled and appropriate solutions were developed to properly reduce its psychological and physical damage (WHO, 2013).

In 2019, signs of the global epidemic of Corona appeared in the Chinese city of Wuhan, and viewpoints differed regarding what created this virus. Some say that it is the result of Chinese laboratory viral tests, others think it is the result of American laboratory tests, some have turned it into a virus made by nature that has been stained

with pollution, and there are those who attribute the whole matter to divine anger. Finally, researchers believe that the emergence of the Corona virus may agree with some of the above views, and may differ with others, except that the important thing in this regard is to confront this pandemic, and to identify its repercussions and dire effects first on humans, then on global political and economic systems.

It is worth mentioning that the new Corona virus, or what is known as COVID-19, that appeared in 2019, is only a new generation of the previously known Corona virus, and it appeared in the form of individual infections in the Chinese city of Wuhan and rapidly spread throughout China, and from there to the whole world. Within several months it has become a global epidemic that has claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of people, not to mention millions of infections so far, and what distinguishes this virus is that it is transmitted quickly among infected people through contaminated droplets of the infected when sneezing, and when touching contaminated surfaces by the infected person, also through touching the hand, money, or breathing, and the most important symptoms of it are fever, severe difficulty of breathing, coughing, headache, and throat pain. The entire world still seeks to find a real cure for the Corona virus, but the matter is still complicated and it has not been yet reached because of the rapid spread of the Corona virus all over the world (Dubai Health Authority, 2020).

From the viewpoint of researchers, this pandemic has almost led to a complete cessation of many life sectors in the countries of the whole world, including the State of Kuwait, which, like other countries, suffered a lot as a result of this epidemic. Hence, the study in hand highlights the effects of the Corona pandemic on the political and economic organizations in the State of Kuwait.

2. The impact of Corona virus on some Arab countries in general:

In all Arab countries, economic activity has been reduced or stopped to cover almost all sectors after adopting measures to confront the COVID-19 pandemic (Cavallo & Forman, 2020). It included the closure of shops, non-vital services, educational centers, workplaces, and entertainment activities, which makes the prospect of an economic collapse possible. As in other regions of the world, Arab governments have been assessing the seriousness of COVID-19 disease and taking steps to mitigate its spread and to contain it. However, as soon as it witnessed the effects of the epidemic on other countries, the Arab countries resorted to taking some of the strictest isolation and containment measures. These measures include closing borders, stopping flights, stopping airlines, quarantining residents in their homes, closing places of worship, stopping group prayers, suspending work permits for foreigners, and returning tourists back to their countries (Nicola, 2020). Also, various forms of curfews have been imposed in several Arab countries.

The COVID-19 pandemic has directly affected the economies of Arab countries. For instance, the tourism sector has received the first blow with the abolition of many tourism flights and services in some Arab countries. In addition, in March, Saudi Arabia stopped issuing Umrah visas and stopped visiting the Prophet's Mosque in Medina due to the spread of COVID-19. Saudi Arabia was forced to prevent Muslims from other countries to perform the Hajj ritual, instead it was only allowed to the residents of the country.

To better understand the importance of the tourism sector on the economic and social level in some Arab countries, it is worth mentioning here that this sector represents a great part in the gross domestic product of Egypt by 15%, 14% in Jordan,

12% in Tunisia, 8% in Morocco. And since tourism is a sector that requires a lot of employment, the almost complete cessation of its economic activity due to the Corona virus pandemic represents a severe blow to the workforce (El-Haddad, 2020).

For Tunisia, the COVID-19 pandemic is the first critical crisis that the new government had to deal with; since it was formed in February after the elections on October 6th. However, the country already suffers from chronic economic problems that will grow worse by the current epidemic due to lower incomes from tourism and trade with Europe.

The sharp decline in the value of the Lebanese pound, which has lost more than 40% of its value since October 2020, and the shortage in foreign currency, has led to the closure of companies, job losses, price inflation and major complications in the import of basic commodities including medical and health supplies (Lebanon: Why the Country is in Crisis, 2020).

Morocco has also experienced a decline in revenues in 2020; that in addition to declining tourism, the global recession can significantly reduce the remittances sent by Moroccans working abroad, especially in Europe, which account for more than 6% of Moroccan GDP (The World Bank in Morocco, 2020).

The economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Egypt will be significant due to the decline in tourism revenues, the expected decrease in the movement of maritime transport through the Suez Canal and the decrease in financial transfers that Egyptians send from the Gulf countries. Consequently, all of this will affect the flow of the hard-foreign currencies that Egypt seriously needs to import materials needed for the pandemic. (Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Tourism in Egypt, 2020).

As for the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, they possess relatively good health resources and systems. However, the economic effects and low oil prices place more challenges on their financial resources and public services. Hence, all of these countries have implemented extensive measures to contain the spread of the epidemic. However, there is a high risk of infection among foreign workers.

For countries dependent on income from selling oil and gas, the sharp drop in prices during the COVID-19 pandemic poses a major problem to their public budgets. This situation directly affects energy producers in the Gulf and Algeria (COVID-19 Crisis Response in MENA Countries, 2020).

Second: The political effects of the Corona pandemic on the State of Kuwait:

Aspects and indicators of the Kuwaiti economy were closely related to its political conditions, as the economic dilemma to which Kuwait was exposed as a result of the Corona pandemic led to low economic growth indicators with the emergence of an increase in the rate of inflation in several areas, the most important of which is the increase in the ratio of public debt to Country.

Moreover, stopping the export of oil to abroad and disrupting many sectors of the state that are essential and vital to the whole country led to a weak political position at the internal level of the country, which consequently made the Kuwaiti government present a note before the Kuwaiti National Assembly that recommends borrowing from the Kuwaiti Fund for Future Generations. However, the note was rejected in late Ramadan 2020, which put the Kuwaiti political system in a perplexing position; wondering about the possibility of resorting to foreign borrowing like the International Monetary Fund, which would make Kuwait's policy and system abide by the foreign decisions of countries or donor

organizations. As a result, Kuwait has lost some of its political weight internally and externally alike, as the primary and most prominent financier of the Kuwaiti economy is oil, which has become an unwanted commodity at the global level during the Corona pandemic (Al-Arabiya, 2020).

On the other hand, the repercussions of Corona pandemic came in the wake of the Arab regional changes, some of which still exist. Some Arab political regimes including Kuwait suffered at the level of their political system in dealing with the dilemmas of the Arab region that emerged in late 2010 represented by the Arab Spring revolutions. Some of these changes extended to Kuwait during its popular revolt in the past few years, and now the Corona pandemic reflects another political and economic predicament that put the country's agencies in a difficult situation to deal with it at the beginning, which drove Kuwait to a new dilemma in front of the Kuwaiti people, especially the opposition party. In other words, the shortcomings in the performance of the Kuwaiti government, like many other countries in the world, led to popular demands calling for better intellectual work by the government, or voices condemning the state's weakness in facing this pandemic, which affected the Kuwaiti political system being unable to stop the spread of Corona, like the rest of Arab and global political systems. It is necessary to point out that the Corona pandemic has fueled conflict and political tension in the Kuwaiti community which led the political system in the country to appear in a more vulnerable position in facing serious issues, and achieving people's demands, not the least of which is overcoming the Corona pandemic. What intensifies the situation is Kuwait's weak economy that the country has been suffering, and the lack of appropriate financial capacity to meet the demands of people and deal with the Corona pandemic file together (Fernandes, 2020).

In light of the foregoing, it is concluded that the Kuwaiti political situation was greatly affected by the Corona pandemic on the internal and external levels of the country. On the internal level, Kuwait suffers from economic and financial weaknesses that gives oppositionists the opportunity to accuse the government of performance deficiencies. While on the external level, Kuwait undergoes a weak position among other countries due to its poor oil trade, also the need for financial support may turn Kuwait's policies to abide by the decisions of the external donors.

The political effects can be determined as the following:

- 1 .Weak global political coordination, which led to the weakness of the nation state facing this pandemic alone.
- 2 .A decline in democratic political principles in favor of totalitarian ideas:: The democratic starting points that were advocated by Western democratic countries and regimes showed their inability, and to work to protect their citizens by imposing curfews and health reservations, which disrupted the citizen's freedom of movement.
- 3 .The concept of international cooperation and accreditation has receded in favor of confronting the nation-state against this pandemic alone, with stopping import and supply and stopping cooperation between countries.
- 4 .The use of military force within the state : One of the political effects of the Corona pandemic is the retreat of concepts of democracy and freedom within the national state, as the state has practiced to implement health-ban policies for the population.
5. Stirring up political opposition within the state due to the deficiency of the outcome in some preventive and curative aspects of the epidemic.

Third: The economic effects of the Corona pandemic on the State of Kuwait.

Many political and economic systems in the world have been affected by the Corona pandemic. For instance, it forced countries to take more severe measures regarding the commitment of people, systems and countries in general to the concept of distancing, which doesn't only apply on the individual level, but also on the level of political and economic relations. All this is taken into consideration because no one can expect the way through which this virus can be transmitted and spread between countries and peoples (Abdel Latif, 2020).

On the other hand, all countries of the world, including economic countries, took several preventive measures, the most prominent of which was the suspension of work on a large scale in the country's sectors and institutions to prevent the spread of the virus among people. In so doing, industrial, commercial and other sectors were disrupted, which

affected the economy of many countries, particularly exporting ones (Al-Makahla, 2020).

Because of the disruption of all sectors of countries in the world, most of which depend on using oil derivatives, Kuwait being one of the oil exporting countries has been greatly affected. Thus, the low ration of demand for oil derivatives led to a decline in their prices to unprecedented levels, where the price of a barrel of oil in some international countries reached to (-7 \$). This crisis caused a great economic damage in the world oil exporting countries, most notably Kuwait, which relies on oil trade to construct its national economy. Accordingly, the indicators of the Kuwaiti economic and financial situation decreased significantly, as shown in the following table according to the International Monetary Fund of Kuwait. The table compares between the Kuwaiti economic situation of 2019 and 2020 (Gulf Online, 2020):

Kuwaiti economic conditions between 2019 and 2020 due to the Corona pandemic:

The Kuwaiti economic status	2019	2020
Economic Growth	1.3%	-3.5%
Budget deficit/savings (as a percentage of GDP)	-0.8%	-11%
Government revenues (as a percentage of GDP)	57%	53%
Government dept (as a percentage of GDP)	11%	19%
Total Exports	72%	46%
Current account deficit / surplus	12%	-11%
Public debt ratio (as a percentage of GDP)	48%	63%

Source: Gulf Online (2020) website of the International Monetary Fund.

According to the above table, researchers indicate that the Corona pandemic has led to a decline in the percentage of Kuwaiti oil exports, which are the cornerstone of the Kuwaiti economy. As a result, all countries of the world had to reduce oil prices to unprecedented levels, which led to a huge

deficiency regarding the Kuwaiti economic situation; especially in light of the country's enormous expenditures to stop Corona, which coincided with the economic dilemma caused by the pandemic. Hence, the economy of Kuwait began to obviously get its way to a collapse in the foundations of

the Kuwaiti economy. In other words, the percentage of public debt and total expenditures increased, along with low indicators of economic growth, and a large deficit in the indicators of GDP in the Kuwaiti economy.

- Conclusion:

This study aimed to explain the effects of the Corona pandemic on the political and economic system in Kuwait. The pandemic has spread globally within months and has become a global epidemic that has caused damage to many aspects of life and the systems of countries, including Kuwait that was affected economically and politically. The study used an appropriate scientific method. The results were consistent with the applied systems theory. Hence, it has proven that political and economic inputs have produced tangible results as outputs that affected the course of the political and economic processes of the study case. In addition, the study hypotheses agreed with its results that there is a negative impact of the Corona pandemic on the political and economic side of Kuwait. The study problem was addressed throughout the previous investigations, and some solutions to the study questions are represented by the study results as listed below:

- Findings:

1. The newly emerged Corona pandemic did not appear purely by chance, but rather is an extension of the Corona virus that first appeared in 1960 and began to evolve. It came to light in several historical stages: 2003, 2004, 2012, 2013, and finally in 2019, when it was given the name (the COVID-19 virus). The COVID-19 virus is characterized by its unprecedented rapid spread throughout the world after it had appeared in the Chinese city of Wuhan in late 2019, and its most important symptoms are fever, cough, respiratory disorders, and physical ailments. This disease is considered one of the most
- dangerous epidemics that cause death in the modern era.
2. The study showed the weakness of governmental procedures, the lack of international and Arab support, and the lack of joint efforts to confront the Corona pandemic, which led to its rapid spread among people.
3. The study shows that the Kuwaiti political system was affected by the Corona pandemic, as the political tension in Kuwait and the emergence of the opposition group before the pandemic, along with the escalation of protest against the country's weak performance in confronting Corona, weakened the general position of the political system at the internal level of the country.
4. The study proves the weakness of public political participation which almost stopped during the pandemic.
5. The Corona virus has caused damage to the Kuwaiti economic system, due to the disruption of oil trade, which represents the basis for the Kuwaiti economy; in other words Kuwait's vast majority of its financial returns and the growth of its economy depend on oil trade.
6. The Corona virus has also increased the public debt ratio, decreased indicators of economic and investment growth, and increased the public expenditure to confront the Corona pandemic, thus financial resources has reduced and the volume of public financial spending has increased, which led to the beginning of a collapse in the Kuwaiti economy.

- Recommendations:

1. Working to limit the spread of the Corona virus among members of society.
2. The need to strengthen the position of the Kuwaiti political system and to take measures and policies to improve the services provided to society. Also, the country is responsible for guaranteeing all the necessities of life for citizens.

3. The necessity of pumping more financial liquidity into the Kuwaiti political system in order to avoid the shortage in providing health, social and humanitarian services that might hinder adopting policies related to confronting Corona and financing in a manner that covers the requirements of combating this epidemic.

4. The necessity to search for financial resources for the Kuwaiti system other than those generated from oil trade, such as making foreign investments to confront any other epidemiological dilemma, and to confront any other wave of the Corona pandemic in the near or long term.

5. The necessity of carrying out political and financial reforms at the domestic level, to reduce tension in the Kuwaiti street, and increase political participation to fight against this epidemic.

6. The need to build partnerships between Kuwait and the countries that were able to control the widespread of the Coronavirus, and benefit from the experiences of other countries to avoid high public debt and expand Kuwaiti investments.

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