

Political Stability in IRAQ

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Abstract

The paper discuss political stability with reference to Iraq, and discuss only the internal factors (other external factors are not covered). it shows that Iraq after 2003 gain democracy but lost rule of Law and sound institutions to promote good governance/ rule of law, and as a result governments effectiveness become the lowest in the region.

Focusing on political participation as a mean to achieve political stability (and in absence of sound institutions) members of consecutive governments find themselves in a sphere where they can maximize their own political interests (not national interests) and this friction have hampered government function to match citizens' expectation.

Disappointment of citizens are expressed in two form: The first accused the governments as corrupt and incompetent, and the second accused government with discrimination. The first group are those who support the political changes (that took place after 2003) and have contributed to the constitution development and participated in the other political process , and the second group where hesitant to participate in the political changes and they have less contributions to the constitution.

The paper question the wisdom of super power for Iraq to increase political participation. It shows that there are no significant evidence to support the claim, and that building Institution to support good governance is necessary & sufficient condition for political stability.

Is Iraq Failed State ?

Since the political change in 2003, Iraq have made significant economic & political achievements: One the economic achievements

1. GDP per capita growth from \$1670 to \$6500 (2004 - 2013).
2. Average daily oil production increase 1.8 MB to 3.1 MB (2005- 2014)
3. A decline in the rate of unemployment down from over 28% to 11.9% (2004 - 2012).
4. A reduction in poverty, down from 54% to 18.9%.(2012)
5. A lowered rate of inflation, down from 68% to 2.4% (2006 - 2014).
6. An increase in the supply of electricity from 3500MW to 8200MW (2004 - 2013).
7. A reduction of Iraq's debt, down from \$ 140 to \$ 58.7 Bn (2004- 2013).

Has Iraq made Political Progress Since 2003?

Despite the political hurdles, Iraq has made significant political achievements, which have manifested in the following:

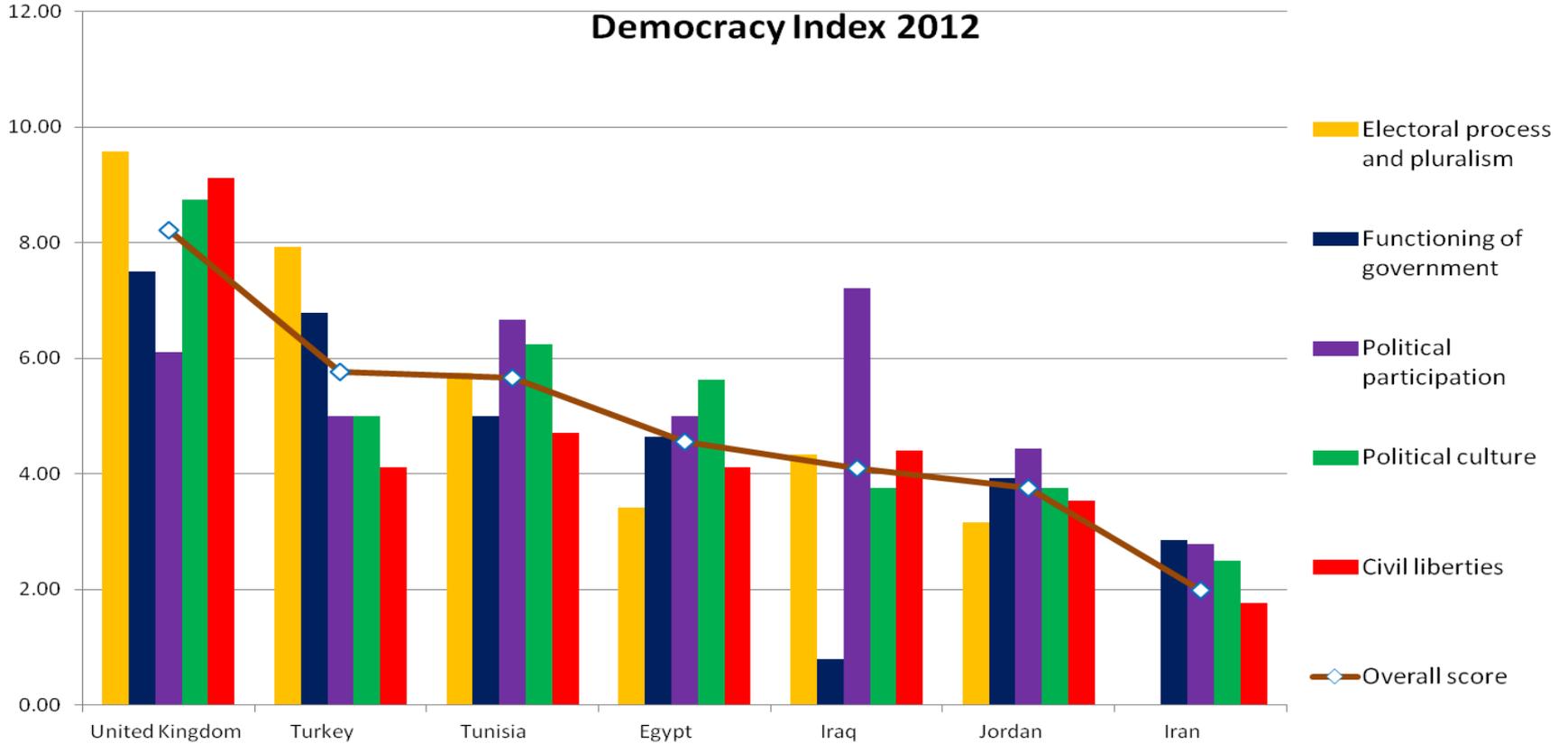
- a) Referendum of the constitution,
- b) Several National and sub-national elections,
- c) Improvement in political freedom and in human rights,
- d) Enforcing decentralisation
- f) Free press, Civil liberty

This does not mean that the abuse of Human Rights or bad practices have not occurred.

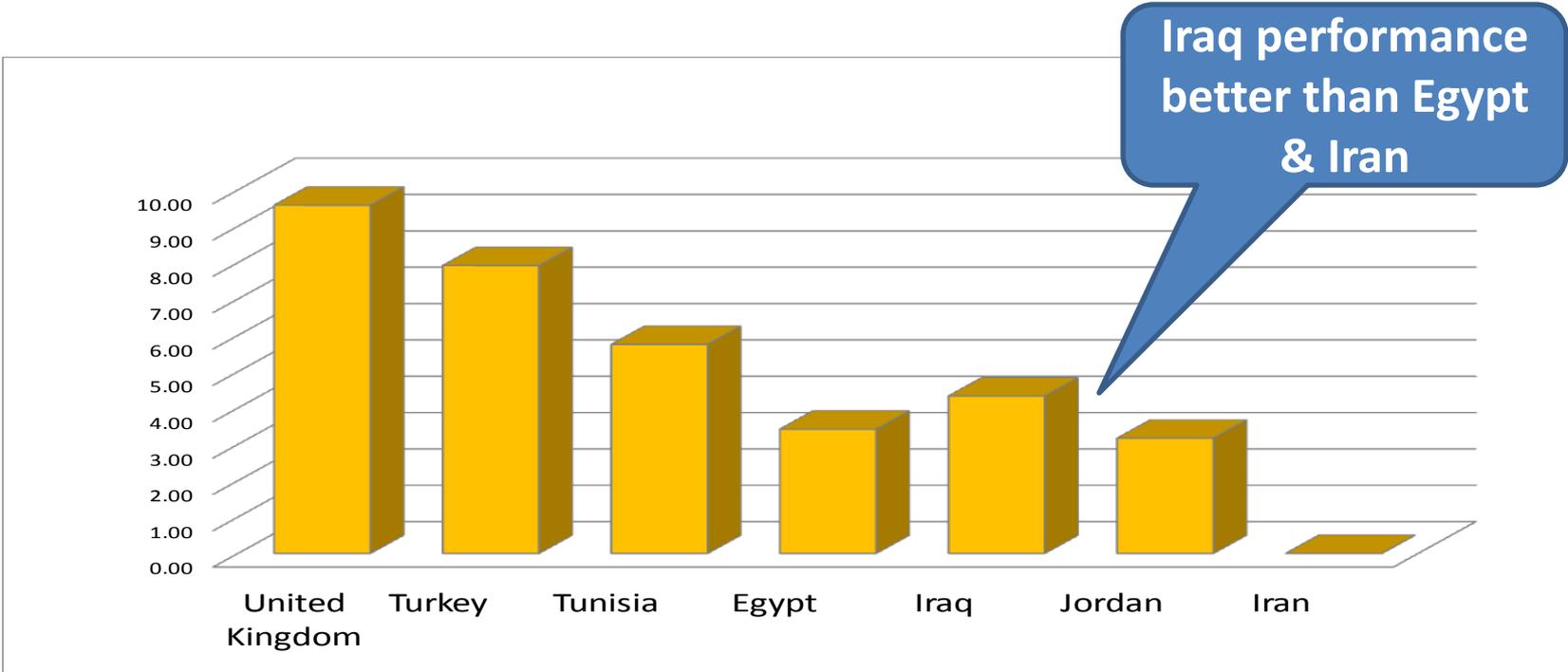
In the following figure which compare democracy index of Iraq with respect number of countries such as UK, Turkey, Iran, Jordan, Tunis, and Egypt.

- a) Electoral Process and Pluralism Iraq performance better than Egypt & Iran
- b) Political Participation: Iraq performance better that UK, and others countries,
- c) Political Culture: Iraq performance better than Iran Jordan.
- d) Civil Liberty: Iraq performance better than Turkey, Iran, Egypt & Jordan
- e) Government Function: Iraq performance Less than other countries.

Has Iraq made Political Progress Since 2003?

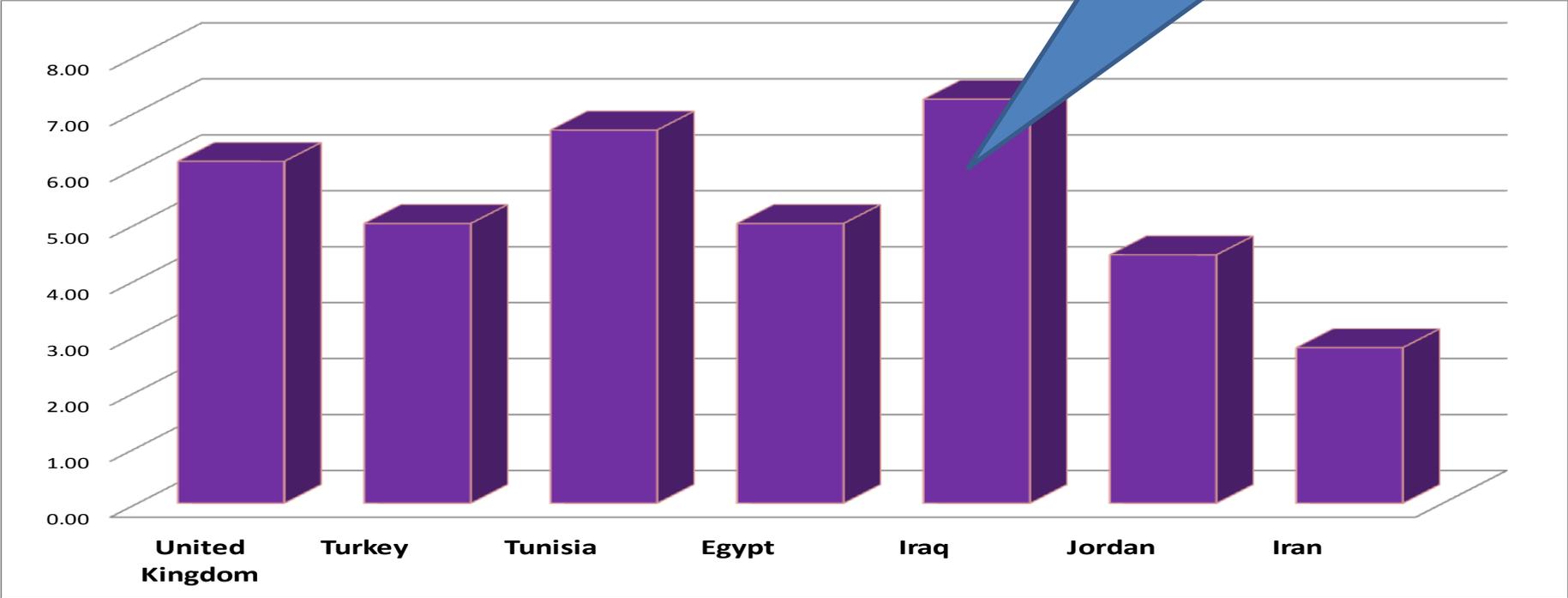


Electoral Process and Pluralism

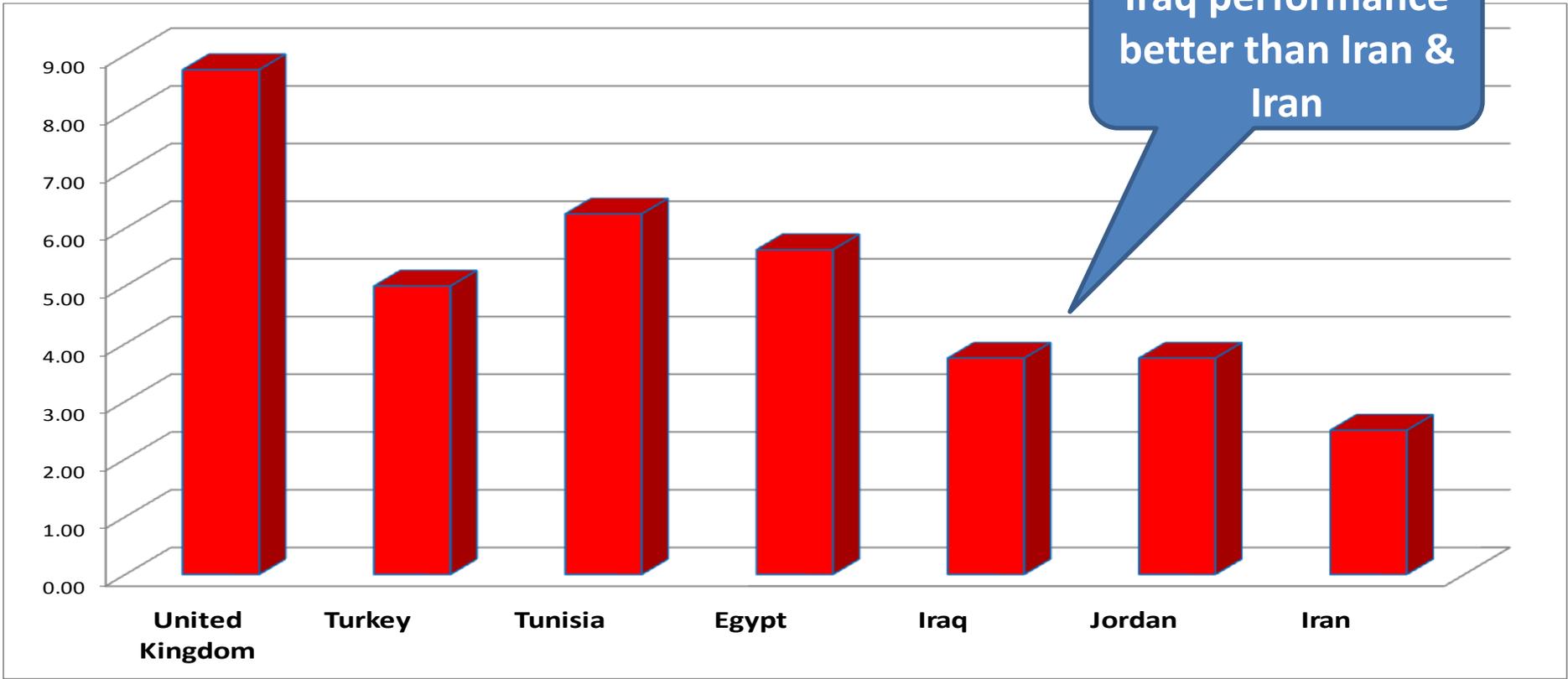




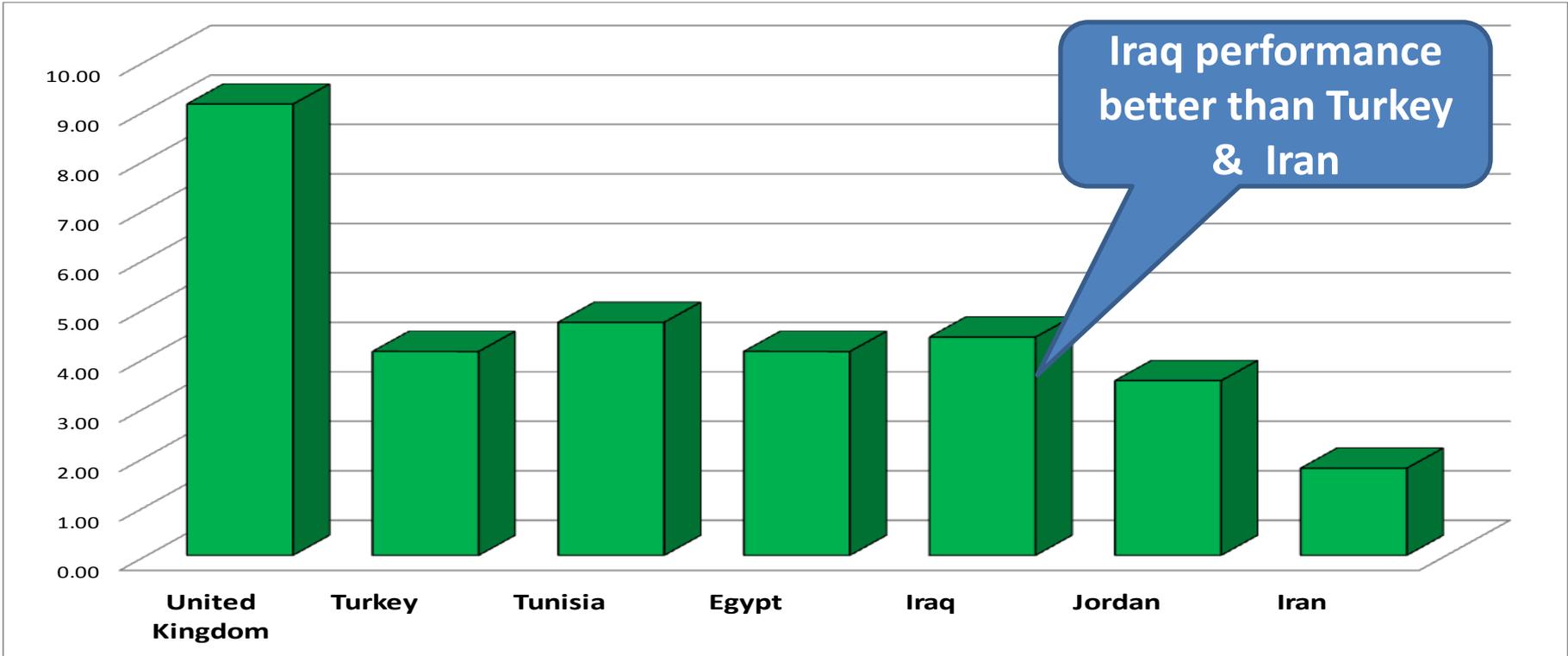
Iraq performance better than any country including UK



Political Culture

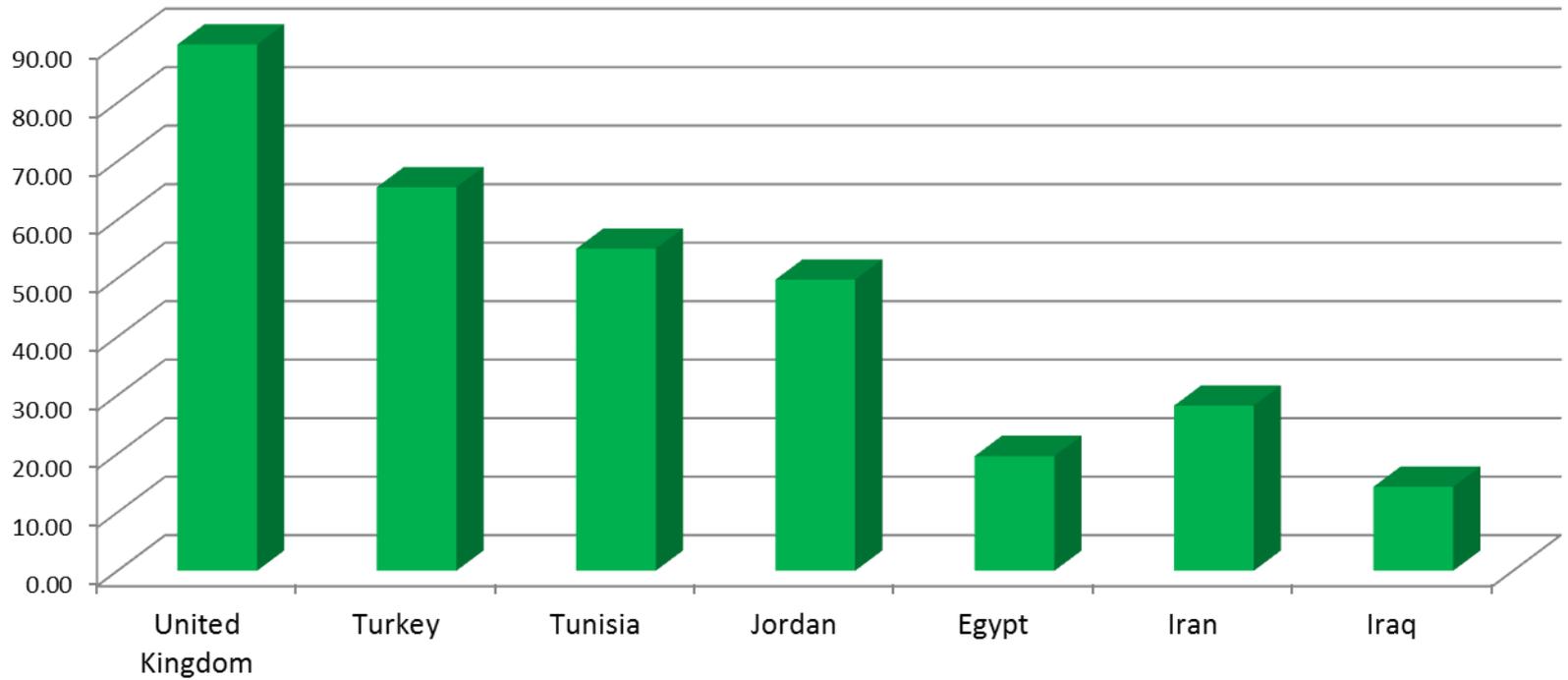


Civil Liberties



Iraq government Effectiveness

Government Effectiveness



What is the Limitations of the Political System?

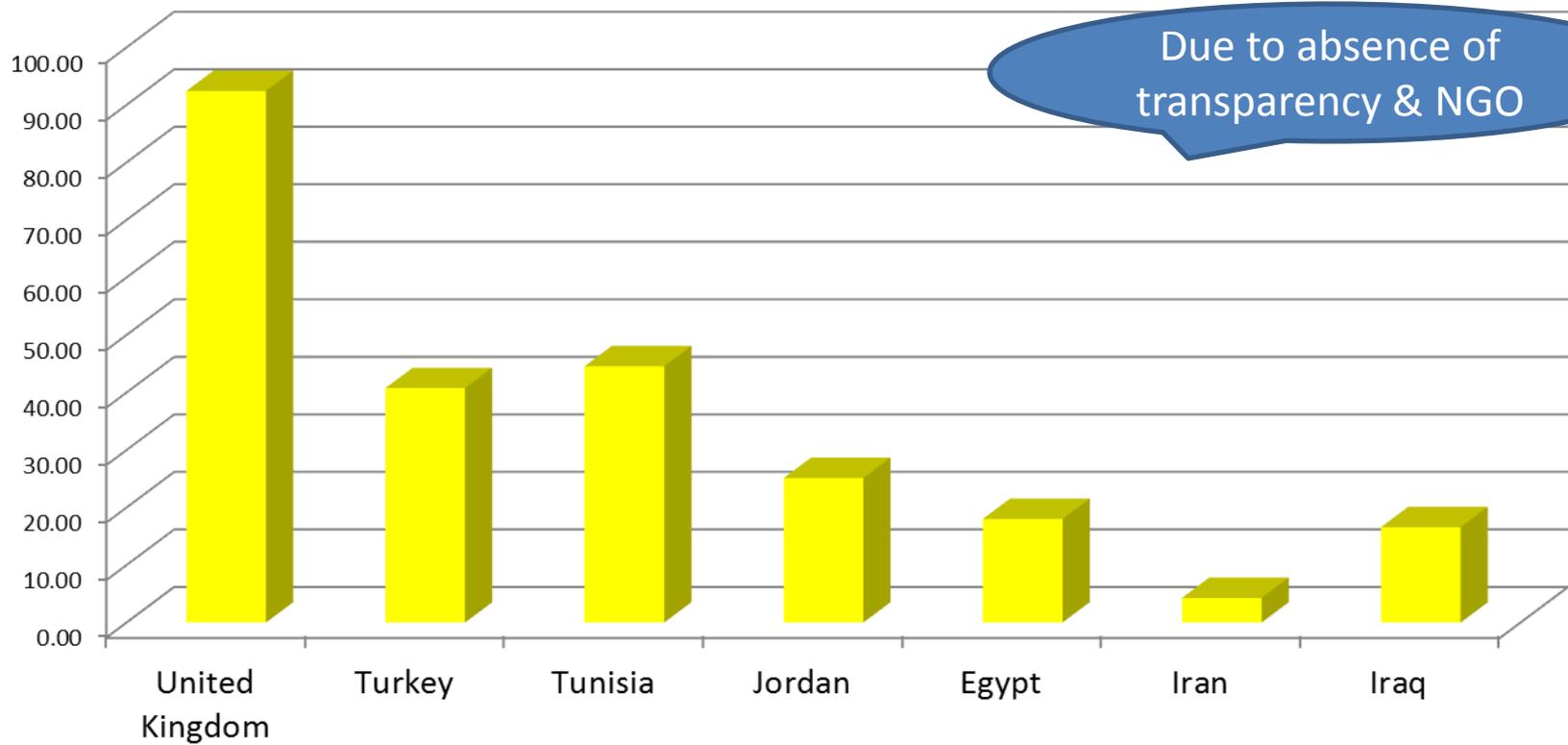
The low score for Government effectiveness mean government failed to provide public services including security.

- ✓ Percentage of population served with (drinking water) 85%
- ✓ Percentage of population served by sewage networks 32.2%
- ✓ The daily supply of electricity from the public network 11 H (only)
- ✓ Numbers School buildings deficit 8846

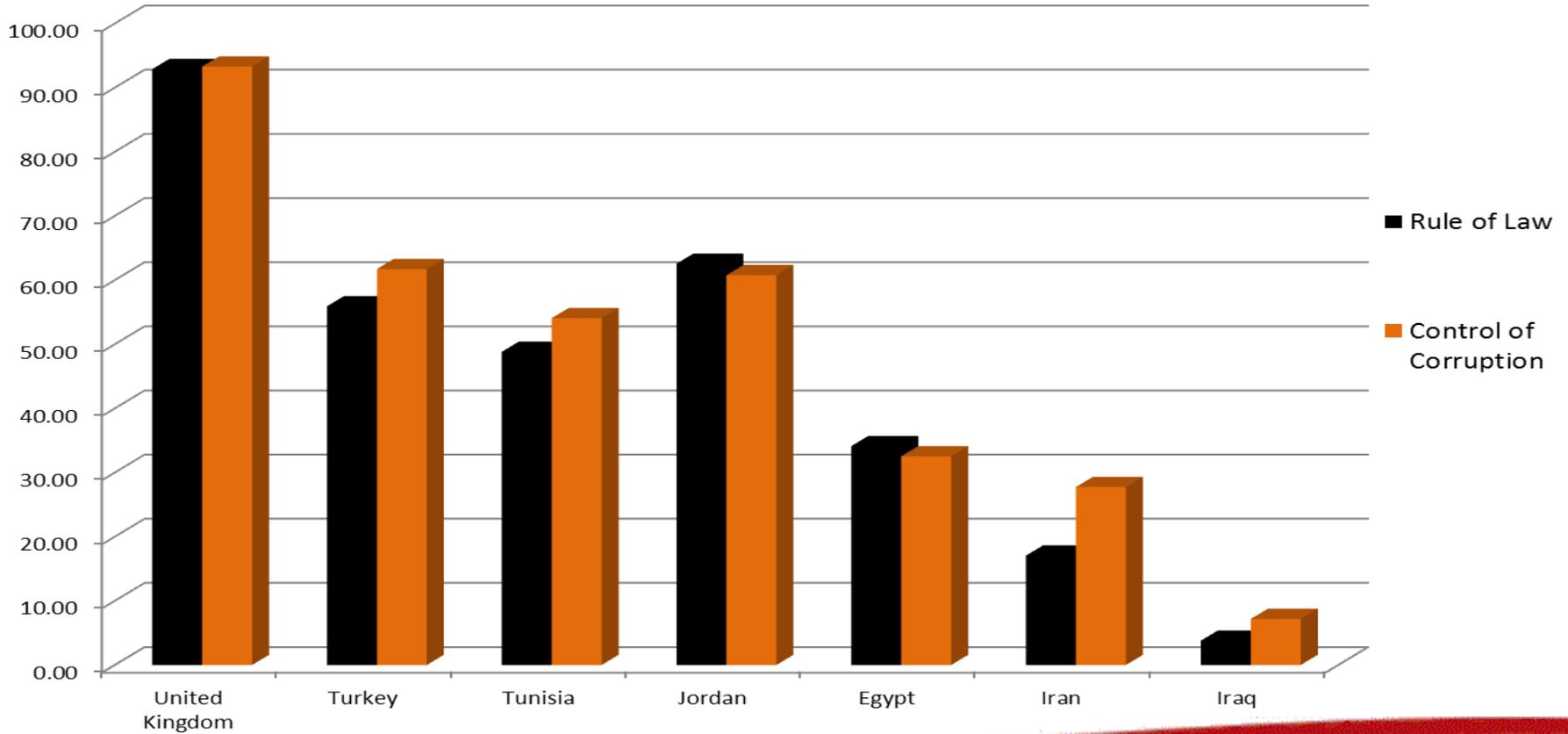
Government effectiveness highly dependent on sound institution that support: Efficiency, Rule of Law, Accountability, Participation, Quality of Regulations.

Good Governance: Accountability

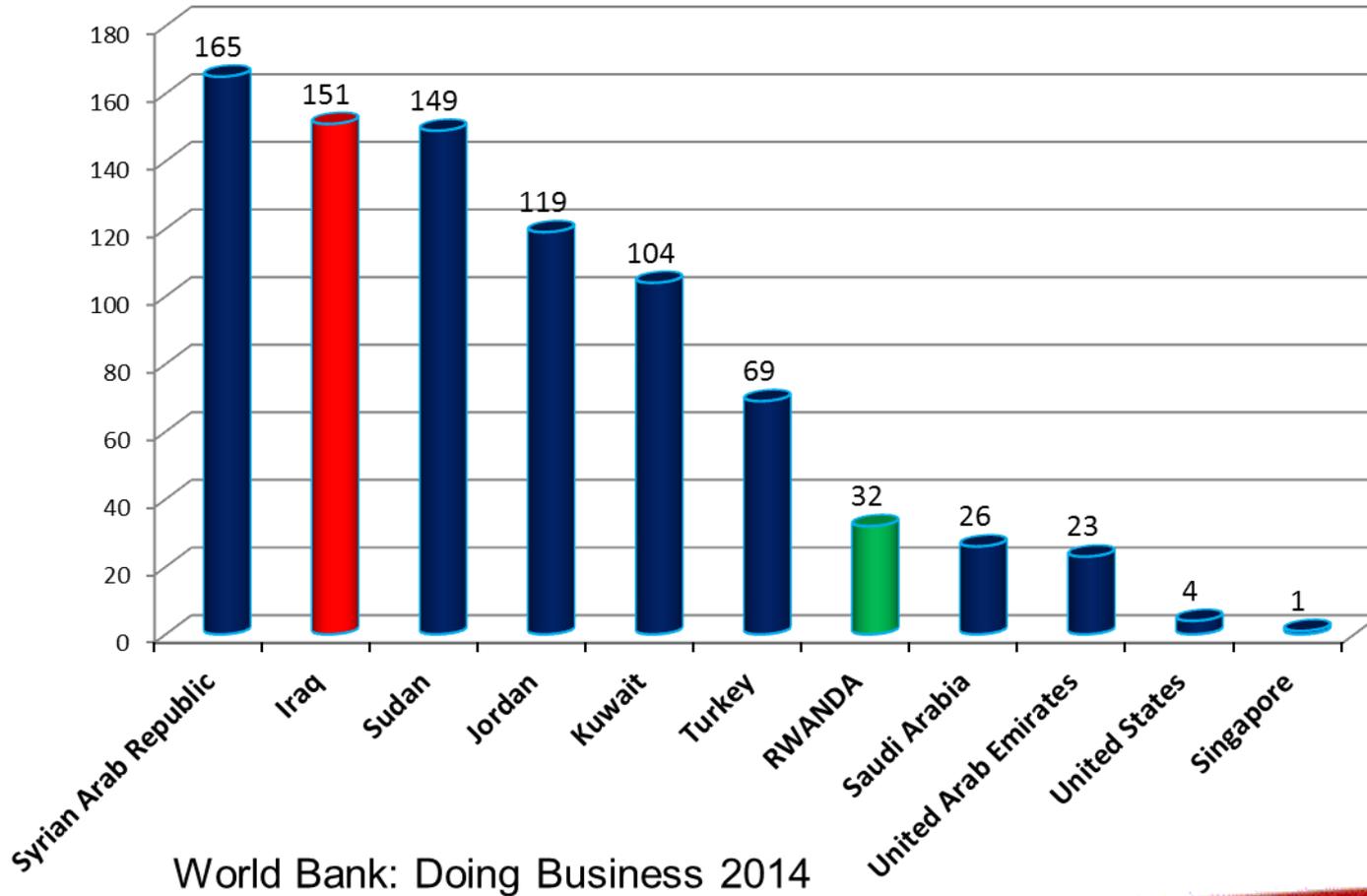
Voice and Accountability



Status of Rule of Law

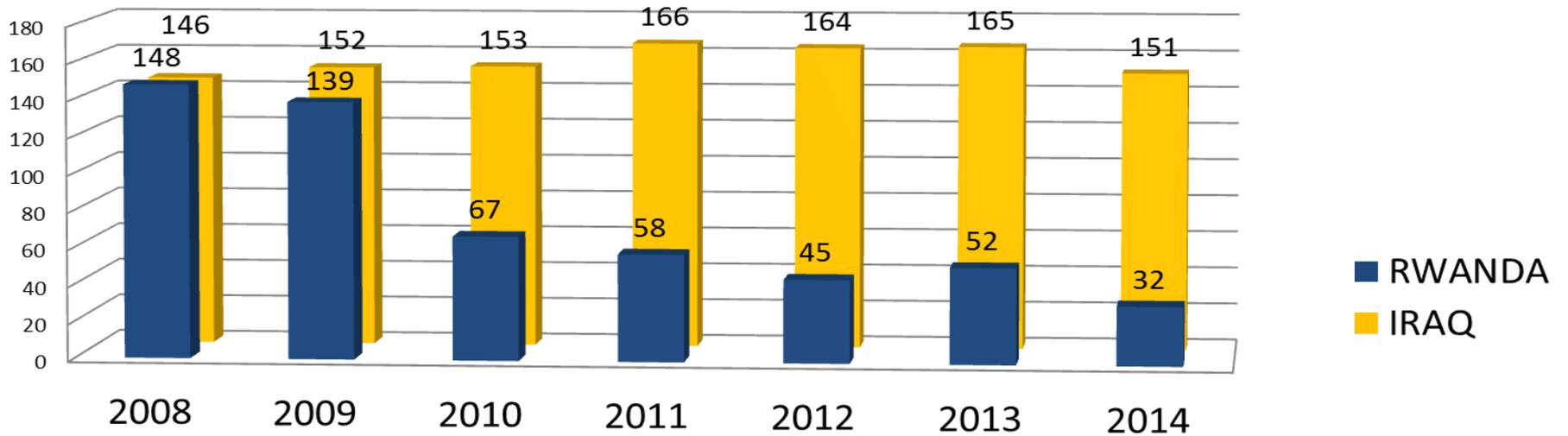


Rigidity of Business Regulations



Comparison between Iraq & Rwanda

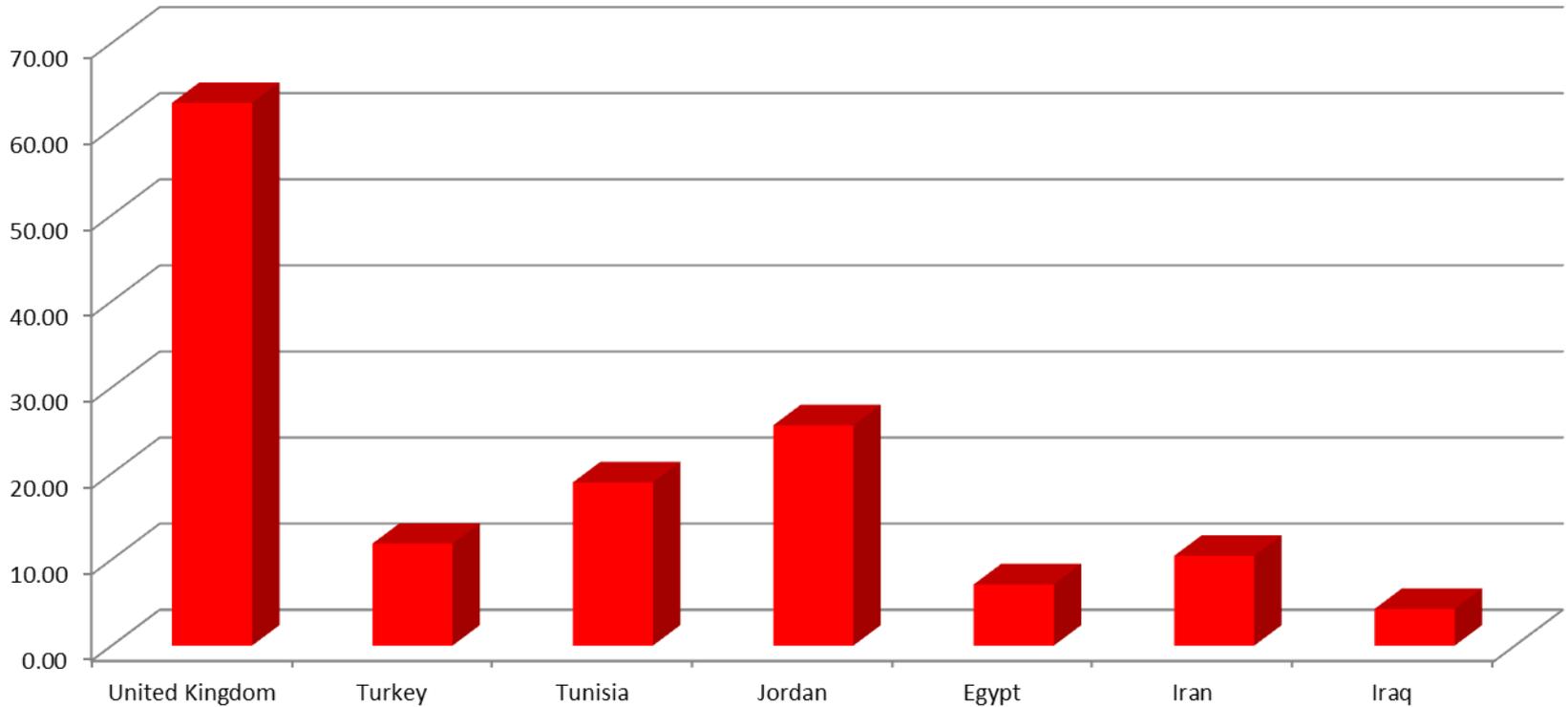
Absence of Political Will



World Bank: Doing Business 2014

What is the Impact of Government In Effectiveness on political Stability?

Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism



What is the Problem?

Since first elect government in 2005 and all consecutive governments did not focus on building institutions but rather to achieve political stability through political participations . As a result absence of institutions to support good governance and this was reflected in:

1. Absence of Transparency System:

Which Led the current engagement of citizens and NGOs to be limited and not necessary positively effective. Transparency of Federal Budget scored is poor (4%) civil+ society have no access to assess spending priorities and monitor spending. The overall results resources are allocated ineffectively.

2. Weak Accountability :

Accountability require official to be bond for the action and this require clear legislations, transparent system, and presence of NGO. The Coalition Government ignored empowering citizens and promoting NGO's to engage in shaping better policies, expressing grievances, seeking justice, this creates a gap between citizens & the government. While political parties are continue free from any legal accountability as there is no legislation on political parties engagements.

What is the Problem?

C. Inability to Enforce Rule of Law:

This led to inability enforce contract and create a climate of unpredictability. Rule of law provides the necessary framework that allows transactions to take place in an orderly manner and in which economic agents are reassured that their contractual rights are protected and enforced by the law. This explain why Iraq fails to attract foreign investment.

D. Weak Economic inefficiency:

Efficiency mean for a country/ organization having a sound vision/strategy and every decision taken is efficient. This is not the case in Iraq now, political elites are maximize their own narrow interests (power, prestigeetc.).

What is the Consequence?

As result of the above officials and elites are less accountable to satisfy citizens needs and on the contrary they are much more eager to advance their narrow interests (power, prestige, wealth,..).

According to political literature the cause and effect of such behaviour is poor “Political Stability”.

The current advice from international community is: to gain political stability it is necessary to expand political participation. This is in my view will not deliver an efficient, accountable transparent political system?

Why Have Citizens Manifested their Dissatisfaction Differently?

	A) Shi'ite	B) Sunni
Interpretation	Incompetence/ Corruptions	Discriminations
Background	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The political elites are mainly a religious leaders. 2. They are very supportive to the political changes that took place after 2003 and have contributed to the constitution and participated in the political process significantly 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The political elites are mainly political activists. 1. They are divided on the political changes that took place after 2003, and they have less contributions to the constitution and the political process.