

External Third-Party Perceived Regime Type and Behavior: The Impact on Domestic Conflicts

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Abstract

This research examines the impact of perceived regime type and role of external third-party actors on grievances, collective identity, political mobilization and tendency to employ political violence of a technical minority group engaged in a domestic protracted social conflict with technical majority group when the majority is in complete control of the state apparatus. Relying on empirical data, the perceived non-democratic and unreliable Arab regimes and their inaction in supporting the Palestinians during the Palestinian first Intifadaⁱ (1987-1993) in the military occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip had significant impact on fields of major concern in the domestic conflict between Arabs and Jewish citizens in Israel: 1) the stronger the Arab citizens' dissatisfaction with non-democratic and unreliable Arab regimes, the greater their grievances with regard to Israel's housing policies, and the stronger their tendency to employ political violence in the conflict. 2) The stronger the impact of lack of Arab world's support for the Palestinians during the Palestinian first Intifada, the stronger the grievances of the Arab citizens in Israel's housing policies, the stronger the support for national collective identity, the stronger the support for political parties in Israel composed of Arab nationalist and Jewish progressive citizens, and the stronger the tendency to employ political violence in the conflict. This may inspire people to be ground-breaking in this grim conflict and encourage official Israeli not to perceive forthcoming democratic change in the Arab world as a threat to their state, and to show that Arab citizens in Israel support Arab-Jewish cooperation while wholeheartedly support their brothers Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for freedom and dignity.

ⁱ An Arabic expression for civil disobedience and civil revolt against the Israeli military occupation.