

The Crucial Role of Non-Tribal Social Groups "Al-Aqilat" in State Development and Military Efforts: The Significance of Market Dominant Minorities in State Formation and Stability "Saudi Arabia 1902-1932"

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Abstract

This research paper explores the pivotal role of the non-tribal social groups, particularly the "Al-Aqilat," in the formation and stability of states, with a focus on their contributions to military efforts and state development. Utilizing qualitative methods, the study delves into a thematic analysis derived from the qualitative coding of 245 documents sourced from British, French, Saudi, and Ottoman archives. These documents provide a comprehensive overview of Al-Aqilat's strategic involvement in regional military affairs, their role in high-stakes negotiations for military procurement, and their impact on the geopolitical dynamics of the time. The analysis reveals the multifaceted roles that Al-Aqilat played, extending beyond commercial and diplomatic ventures to include significant involvement in military logistics and procurement activities. This involvement underscores their broad influence and capabilities in shaping regional military landscapes and state-building efforts. Furthermore, the study highlights Al-Aqilat's ability to navigate complex international negotiations, secure vital military assets, and contribute to internal stability by suppressing rebellions and supporting military campaigns. Through a detailed examination of various archival documents, the research sheds light on the critical contributions of market-dominant minorities like Al-Aqilat in the broader context of state formation and stability, illustrating their indispensable role in the socio-political and military fabric of emerging states.

Keywords: Market dominant minorities, social groups, political influence, Military contribution, state-building, geopolitical dynamics, Al Aqilat