

The prospects for the housing policy and the possibility of achieving it in Iraq after 2003^{*}

Aqeel Hadi Hassan¹, Musa Khalaf Awad²

¹(Department of Economics, College of Administration and Economics, University of Al-Qadisiyah, Iraq, aqeelhadi21@qu.iq)

²(Department of Economics, College of Administration and Economics, University of Al-Qadisiyah, Iraq, mussakalaf@qu.edu.iq)

Abstract

The issue of housing policy in Iraq is a vital and renewed issue that is affected by the various economic and social aspects of the population, as well as being affected by the quantitative, qualitative, structural and distributive aspects. Through these changes and their continual renewal, the subject acquires an increasing importance depending on its nature and amount, as well as what it provokes from different reactions and theoretical origins between pessimism, optimism and neutrality. Therefore, there has been a lot of controversy and a multiplicity of opinions and conflicting ideas at the intellectual and international level on this subject, which can not remain constant except in rare and exceptional cases, which are undesirable cases because of the negative effects it reflects on society from its various aspects and its economic value is destroyed in the absence of follow-up. A future housing policy, and this matter has raised real concerns among governments, including Iraq, and some international circles with an interest in this issue, which are trying to emphasize that such disparity is among the most important reasons that create the economic and social gap, as well as political tension between the countries of the world. Therefore, it seeks to restore balance to the population at the level of different regions and countries by following a future housing policy that achieves ambition and general balance. Here arises the economic and social importance of the issue of housing policy.

Keywords: Keywords: housing policy, Iraq.

المستخلص

يعد موضوع السياسة الاسكانية في العراق، موضوعاً حيوياً متجدداً ويتأثر في الجوانب الاقتصادية والاجتماعية المختلفة للسكان، فضلاً عن تأثره في الجوانب الكمية والنوعية والهيكلية والتوزيعية. من خلال هذه التغيرات وتجديدها باستمرار فإن الموضوع يكتسب أهمية متزايدة تبعاً لطبيعته ومقداره فضلاً عن ما يثيره من ردود أفعال متباينة وأصول نظرية ما بين متشائمة ومتفائلة ومحايدة. ولذلك فقد كثر الجدل وتعددت الآراء وتضاربت الأفكار على المستوى الفكري والدولي بشأن هذا الموضوع، الذي لا يمكن أن يبقى ثابتاً إلا في حالات نادرة واستثنائية، وهي حالات غير مرغوب فيها لما تعكسه من آثار سلبية على المجتمع من جوانبه المختلفة وتندثر قيمته الاقتصادية في حال عدم اتباع سياسة اسكانية مستقبلية، وقد أصبح هذا الأمر يثير مخاوف حقيقية لدى الحكومات ومنها العراق وبعض الأوساط الدولية ذات الاهتمام بهذا الموضوع والتي تحاول التأكيد على أن مثل هذا التباين يعد من أهم الأسباب التي تخلق الفجوة الاقتصادية والاجتماعية فضلاً عن التوتر السياسي بين دول العالم. ولذلك فهي تسعى إلى إعادة التوازن للسكان على مستوى المناطق والدول المختلفة من خلال اتباع سياسة اسكان مستقبلية تحقق الطموح والتوازن العام. وهنا تنشأ الأهمية الاقتصادية والاجتماعية لموضوع السياسة الاسكانية.

* The research is extracted from a master's thesis of the first researcher

Introduction

The subject of housing policy is one of the manifold and overlapping topics with other disciplines and sciences. The researcher specializing in this subject finds many variables and factors affecting this policy. However, he must focus on the relevant aspects of his specialization in order to reach his goal and achieve goals with great accuracy. We will be interested in our research in this in The economic and social aspects being the two major factors influencing the development of the housing policy in Iraq, as well as the interest in analyzing the quantitative and qualitative structural aspects that make it necessary for the developer of the housing policy to follow, and so because of the broadness and comprehensiveness of the subject and in order to reach an appropriate housing policy for Iraq in light of social and economic changes.

Research problem :

The research problem can be described by the following question. Does Iraq lack a balanced housing policy according to a long-term strategic plan, and can it implement a real housing strategy?

Research hypothesis:

In order to solve the research problem, we can put the following most important assumption:

The research assumes that Iraq can achieve a balanced population policy, based on the study of economic and social factors, as well as quantitative, qualitative, structural and distributive balance.

Research importance :

The importance of the research comes from the importance of the topic it deals with, as it is a vital and renewable topic through which a future plan for housing in Iraq can be developed, getting rid of slums and addressing social and economic problems related to the future housing policy in Iraq. The issue of housing policy is also one of the complex and intertwined issues with other sectoral aspects such as health, education, skills and others, which cannot be overlooked when searching for the subject.

research aims :

The research aims to achieve the following: Clarifying the reality of housing in Iraq after 2003, with a historical view of the housing policy in Iraq and the possibility of achieving a strategy according to a future perspective and new horizons for housing.

Research Methodology :

The research relied on the deductive approach and the inductive approach: in which the analysis is moved from the specific to the general and the development of perceptions and foreseeing the future when setting the housing policy for Iraq.

The first topic

Theoretical and conceptual framework of housing policy

First: The concept and definition of population policy and central population planning

The simplest definition of population policy is that it is a state's policy regarding the behavior of its population in terms of demographics in the present and the future. That is, it includes a set of procedures, plans and programs that aim to influence quantitatively and qualitatively the structural

changes of the population in a manner that suits the needs of society,¹ the requirements of its growth and the welfare of the masses. Demographic variables include what is related to population size, growth, distribution, composition and characteristics. In this sense, the population policy is not limited to the problem of overpopulation only (which is the traditional concept), but it also includes programs to stimulate population growth in some countries, regulate immigration and population movement, coordinate the workforce, regulate the flow of labor from abroad, skilled migration, women's contribution to economic and social activity, and reduce health effects. For unregulated fertility and improving the characteristics of the population and narrowing the gap between rural and urban residents and everything related to demographic behavior.² On this basis, every country, regardless of its economic situation, needs to adopt a population policy according to its requirements and objectives to avoid random demographic behaviour.

Therefore, the definition of population policy takes a narrow range at times and a broad range at other times. Berelson* defined it as "the policy adopted by governments in the demographic field to achieve great goals related to the national horizon and economic and social well-being." Since the government's opportunity is relatively few in addressing the issue of mortality and immigration, therefore, intervention in fertility takes the form of population policy. It is also defined as legislative actions, administrative programs and other governmental actions aimed at influencing the trends of population growth, especially births, deaths and immigration, and since reducing mortality is a goal that all societies seek, and determining immigration and legislation for it is a matter imposed by national interests, from this, births remain the basic issue in population policy, and it also has its humanitarian controls related to the rights of parents in determining the number of births Those wishing to do so³, and determining the time distances between one process of reproduction and another according to the set of surrounding circumstances as it was defined as the state's policy regarding the behavior of its place in terms of demographics in the present and the future, that is: it includes a set of procedures, plans and programs that aim to influence qualitatively and quantitatively the structural variables of the population in it that suits the needs of The society and the requirements of its growth and the well-being of its members, and demographic variables include what is related to the size of the population, its growth, distribution, composition and characteristics. Thus, the population policy is not limited in its meaning to the problem of numerical increase - the traditional concept, but includes programs to stimulate population growth in some countries, the regulation of migration, the coordination of the workforce and the migration of skilled people. Women's contribution to economic activity, and the reduction of the health effects of unregulated fertility The population policy is defined as the policy that aims in general to achieve an optimal situation on both the qualitative and quantitative levels, provided that the desired optimal situation is a relative matter in concept as it is Subject to considerations of development, geographical space, economic capabilities, and finally intellectual and cultural experiences.

Second: Classification of Population Policies

Almost all countries of the world agree that the population distribution is unbalanced between countries, that random population growth in many countries is undesirable, and that international migration needs coordination. But the truth is, there are no detailed policies on any of that, or specific ways to address these problems. On the contrary, we find that many countries differ widely in their

1 . United Nations. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. Population Division, Population Policy Compendium, UN/UNFPA, 1997, p 39.

2. Ali Saleh AlSaleh, Ghanem AlNajjr, Turki AlHamad, Gulf International Forum, first edition, 1994, p 129.

* Bernard Robin Berelson (1912-1979) was an American behavioral sociologist, best known for his research and studies on population and population policies, and distinguished for his work in American communications and media.

3 . Cecilia Nathansen Milwertz, *Accepting Population Control: Urban Chinese Women and the One-child Family Policy*, Psychology Press, 1997, p 187.

view of population growth and the need for intervention in the level of fertility and the development of appropriate policy. Therefore, countries can be divided into five groups:

1. *The first group: countries with a declared policy to reduce fertility and population growth, and they are countries that seek to achieve high rates of prosperity, economic progress and international competition⁴.*
2. *The second group: Countries without a declared policy, but provide family planning through health services or the private sector.*
3. *The third group: middle-income countries that do not believe in their current need for a national policy and programs to reduce fertility.*
4. *The fourth group: rich countries that encourage population increase in every possible way, or that they do not care about population growth or set a specific policy for the population and leave the matter naturally without being determined or regulated by them.*
5. *The fifth group: poor countries that give priority in their programs to economic issues, and population organization and planning are among their actions for economic and political goals to reduce the volume of total spending on health, education and food.*

One of the objectives of linking the population policy to the issue of the numerical increase in the population and the issue of birth control is to organize and know the total spending of the state on the economic and societal sectors in general, including spending on education,⁵ health and food and the amount of pressure on the environment, as well as planning the absorptive capacity of the state to employ the largest possible number of working hands All this falls within the division of population policy into two main directions:

1. *The policy of reproduction: It calls for the release of offspring and the increase and reproduction of the population. In general, they are not restricted by any policy that limits their freedoms and decisions in the natural increase. Rather, the government seeks to increase the population by adopting a housing policy that takes into account those natural or planned increases.*
2. *Limitation policy: It calls for birth control and control, that is, restricting people's freedoms to choose the appropriate and legally permitted number of children. Severe fines are also imposed on those who violate, in addition to depriving that family of free education, health and other services.*

There is no doubt that each of these two policies has economic, social and political reasons that drive them. Thus, although the concept of population policy is one or more related to family planning programs and reducing population growth rates, there is nothing to prevent the existence of a population policy aimed at increasing the population, whether through vital increase or through immigration. From that, the state's total legislation and procedures will vary according to the policy it adopts⁶.

4. Abdul Rahim Omran, *Population of the Arab World, Present and Future, 1st Edition, United Nations Fund for Population Activities, New York, 1998, p. 343.*

5 Ahmed Samer Al-Dabousi, *Development and Population, 1st Edition, Arab Society Library for Publishing and Distribution, Amman, 2010, p. 45.*

6. Terry Lynn Carl, *The Perils of Oil Countries, Reflections on the Paradox of Plenty, translated by Abdul Ilah Al-Nuaimi, 1st Edition, Iraqi Studies, Baghdad, 2008, p. 110.*

The second topic

The importance of housing planning and policy in international and Iraqi experiences

First. The importance of housing planning according to international experiences and Iraq

Most countries of the world have been interested in planning the population and organizing the family sector, and the trends of countries have varied in following the appropriate policy in line with their nature and needs in the present and the future. The United States of America has two different economic systems, and other countries each have their own positions on the issue of population, some of them followed the expansionist policy, and some did not take any position towards housing and its planning for financial, religious and other considerations. We will discuss the experience of some countries that have a great economic impact on the world and know its demographic policies.

1 - the experience of China:

The years of the seventh and eighth decade recorded high birth rates in China, and China was pursuing an expansionist policy, and population growth reached its great extent. To intermarriage and the abundance of offspring, and it is one of their customs and traditions that stimulate the population increase without prior planning, and it is similar to the approach of the Islamic civilization in approving the increase in the number of births, but many problems have appeared in China due to the increase in births and the increasing human needs,⁷ which generated high pressure on the The Chinese government in providing the requirements of a decent life for all, and in order to limit this rapid growth, it was necessary for the Chinese government to speed up the direction of birth control and to take bold and difficult steps at the same time, as it contradicts the approach of the Chinese civilization extending for thousands of years, which people used to implement and obey without Natasha, therefore, the government has faced these challenges and succeeded in this policy,⁸ and it has yielded good results, as the birth rate has fallen and therefore the rate of The population growth significantly, and Figure (1) shows the size of the change in the population growth rate in China, as it decreased from 2.6% in 1970 to 1.6% in 1980, that is, after implementing a strict strategy aimed at limiting population growth, but after the emergence of a high percentage of imbalance in the population. The demographic structure and the number of elderly people has become very large and they need care as well as their ability to produce and that the state needs labor, army and police and work that requires physical effort, patience and endurance, so the Chinese government decided to ease this policy and make the plan flexible according to what happens in the structure Therefore, the population growth rate increased from 1.4% in 1985, to 1.7% in 1990, but after the problem of providing job opportunities and providing basic services for all, in addition to the high percentage of population dependency, the government planned to adopt a new housing policy aimed at gradual reduction of the population, especially Their proportion to the world reached a very high percentage of the planet's population. We note a decrease in the population growth rate to 1.2% in 1995, then 0.6 in 2105, to decrease in dimension to less than 0.5 in 2020, which is an important indicator that the figure below shows us about the extent of China's interest in planning minting I and prevent the increase that occurs to reduce pressure on services and others..%1.7 in 1990, however, after the problem of providing job opportunities and providing basic services to all, as well as the increase in the population dependency ratio, the government planned to adopt a new housing policy aimed at gradual reduction of the population, especially as their ratio to the world reached a very high percentage of the planet's population, we notice a decrease Population growth rate to 1.2% in 1995, then 0.6 in 2105, to decrease in dimension to less than 0.5 in 2020, which is an important indicator that the figure below shows us

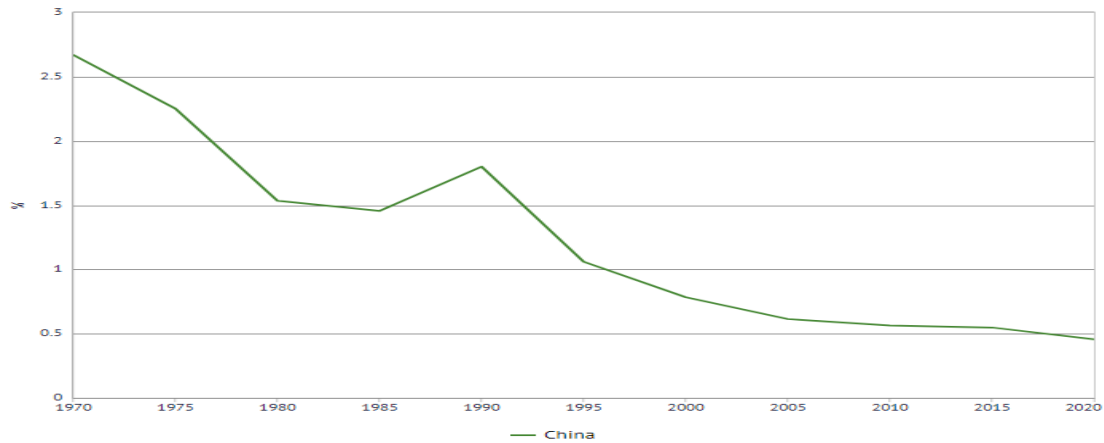
7. See: Frederic Maatouk, *The Asian Genie Takes Control*, 1st Edition, Al-Maaref Forum, Beirut, 2013, pg. 115 and 126.

8. Fawzi Hassan Hussein, *China, Japan and the components of global polarity*, Edition 1, Dar Al-Manhal Lebanese House, Beirut, 2009, p. 73.

about the extent of China's interest in population planning and preventing the increase that occurs to reduce pressure on services and others..

graph (1)

Population growth rates in China for the period (1970-2020) percentages



Source: <https://population.un.org/wpp>

2. the experience of the United States of America

The United States and China may differ in everything, but they agree on the issue of population planning to a large degree, and we can analyze the experience of the United States of America through its data on population growth, which is shown in Figure (2), through which we note the gradual decline in its population growth rate, after If the overall population growth rate was more than 3% in 1970, it worked to reduce it in the following years, as it reached 2.7 in 1975, then the planned gradual decline continued to 2.2 in 1985, and the immigration legislation approved by the United States worked, which placed many restrictions In front of those wishing to immigrate to the United States to reduce the general growth rates of the population,⁹ as well as interfering with the vital growth rates as well, as the average human lifespan has reached (76) years. The population policy in this country has passed through several stages. The first: It was between (1971- 1979) and its slogan: Reduce childbearing and space between pregnancies. The second is the one-child campaign, which began in 1979 and has remained ideologically and logically supported by the American population until the present time. It is a strategic plan that the United States has followed and implemented in order to improve the general situation of the family and to keep the United States number one globally in the volume of gross domestic product and per capita share.¹⁰ In addition to the progress and development that it achieves at all levels, the United States considers the population as a source of its strength and must plan for it as if it is planning for the survival of military, political and other power. And it continues with this population policy for the purpose of achieving its strategic goals and providing the general requirements of the population on its soil, with the exception of the period from 2005 to 2010, when the United States allowed some measures to increase or maintain the population growth rate at

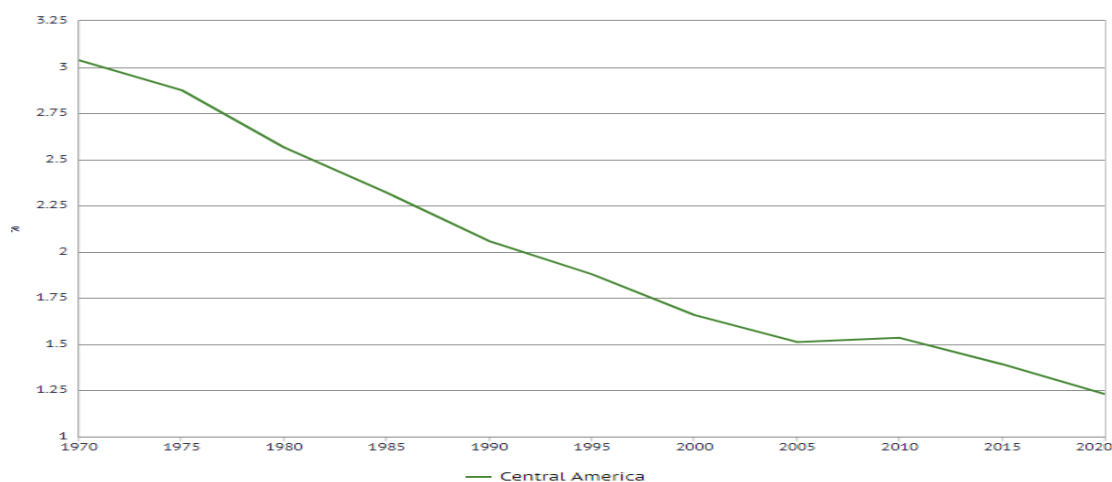
9 . Ali Ziyad Abdullah Al-Ali, *Indicators of Strength and Influence in American Strategy, 1st Edition, Al-Sanhoury Library, Baghdad, 2006, pg. 30.*

10 - *United States Dept of the Treasury Bu, The commerce of the United States with Mexico, Central America, the West Indies, and South America: Also Other Statistics in Regard to the Commerce, Population, Etc. , of Those Countries, Creative Media Partners, LLC, 2017, p 132.*

one pace without reducing it, as it remained at 1.5 percent for five years,¹¹ for the purpose of achieving balance and not having an imbalance in its total population structure, and it continued to reduce after that to reach 1.2% in 2020, which is the best evidence that population planning is important as Beer adopted by the developed world countries to reach their overall economic and societal goals.

graph (2)

Population growth rates in the United States of America for the period (1970-2020) percentages



Source: <https://population.un.org/wpp>

3. Central housing planning in Iraq

Iraq has distinguished itself from most countries of the world in that it did not follow a specific policy in the housing policy. This came as a result of the nature of many religious, economic and social factors, as well as customs and traditions, as is the case of most Arab countries and other countries that encourage population growth or are silent about taking a certain position towards the population. To summarize the reality of population planning and policy in Iraq for several stages it went through, as shown below.

1 - The reality of housing planning in Iraq for the period from 1989 - 2003

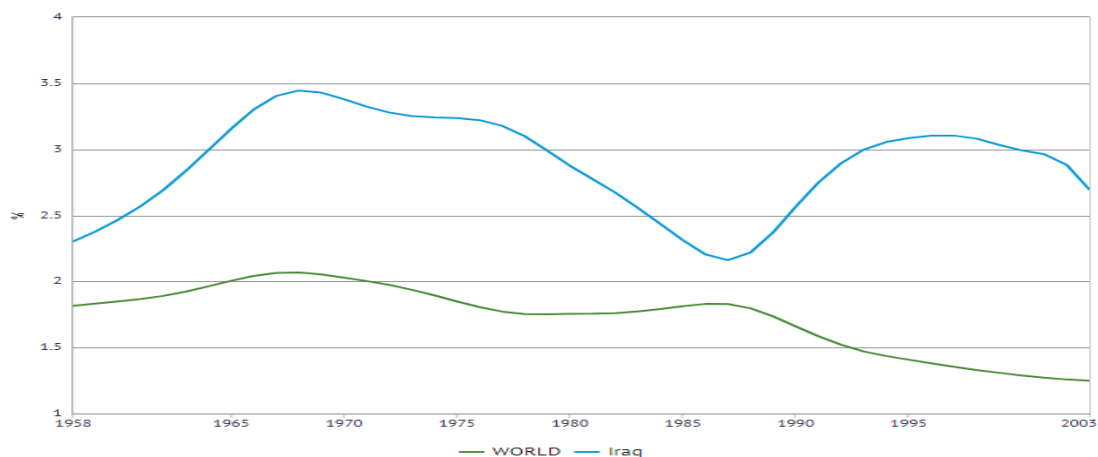
The previous factors caused the suspension of projects as a result of the war and the lack of raw materials and others. This period was characterized by difficult conditions that the people of Iraq went through as a result of the imposition of the economic blockade on them, and it greatly affected the standard of living of individuals, high unemployment rates, extreme poverty rates, and the deterioration of the service, educational and health level in Iraq as a result. The economic blockade, and despite these circumstances, Iraq did not specify or develop a strategic policy for housing planning in Iraq, as Iraqi children were suffering from undernutrition and the emergence of chronic diseases and others, and the death rate increased as a result of these conditions, especially among groups of children, as well as malnutrition, but these cases began to decline as a result of partially opening the economic blockade for the purpose of importing medicines and conducting treatments in government hospitals. The population growth rate in Iraq has increased from the previous period, as shown in Figure (3), and increasingly, after the annual growth rate was 2.6% in 1990, it rose to 3% in 1991, it also continued to increase, reaching a rate of 3.2% in 1996 and 1997, and began to decline

11 . Ali Muhammad Aminif Al-Rafi'i, *Soft Power and its Impact on the Future of American Hegemony*, 1st Edition, Al-Sanhoury Library, Baghdad, 2016, p. 53.

slightly after this period, reaching 3% in 2000, and 2.6% in 2003. Global population growth reached 1.6 percent in 1990, and declined over the period from 1990 to 2003, reaching 1.25%.

graph (3)

Population growth rates in Iraq and the world for the period (1990-2003) percentages



Source :<https://population.un.org/wpp>

The third requirement: the prospects for housing planning in Iraq after 2003

The reality and prospects of population planning in Iraq did not differ from the past decades that were clarified in the foregoing. Rather, this period is characterized by several advantages that affected the population and the Iraqi economy in general, which are:

1. *The Iraqi-American war in 2003 and its result was the occupation of Iraq, the destruction of basic infrastructure, the disintegration of existing strategic projects, as well as the dissolution of the employees of important state institutions, including the army and the judiciary.*
2. *Changing the Iraqi constitution and moving it from the socialist-style constitution to the one that relies on the market economy, which is the effective 2005 constitution.*
3. *The spread of major cases of administrative and financial corruption as a result of weak oversight, so that Iraq became one of the highest countries in the world that suffer from corruption in its institutions.*
4. *The absence of strategic plans to be relied upon as an economic and social roadmap that is compatible with the external environment variables.*
5. *The deterioration of the service sectors (health, education, food, agricultural, industrial, tourism, etc.) according to international indicators and the actual reality in Iraq. As Iraq began to import everything after it was deprived of everything. This has many negative repercussions on society.*
6. *The emergence of armed terrorist groups and the imposition of their control over the population in some areas of Iraq.*
7. *Continuous migration of competencies and owners of capital abroad.*

There are many negatives and phenomena that are not hidden from every specialized or non-specialized individual, so Iraq did not develop plans for the population in general and left the situation as it is and by its nature. The reality of population growth in Iraq for the period from 2003 to 2020 compared to global population growth can be clarified as shown in the table (1) As we note through it that Iraq has very high growth rates compared to global growth rates if it reached 2.72% in 2005, which is double the global growth rate if it reached 1.26% for the same year, but in 2010, it reached 1.99%, a decrease of 0.073% For the year 2005, while the global level remained conservative with a slight decrease of 0.03% only. As for the year 2015, the population growth rate in Iraq reached a record level, reaching 3.58%, while the global growth rate continued to decline to 1.18 for the same year 2015. This is relatively due to many factors, including the improvement of

the standard of living of the Iraqi individual and the personal desire based on Arab customs and traditions to increase the number of children and other beliefs firmly established in every civilization and every country. The population growth rate was 2.46% in 2020, while the population growth rate was 1.09%.

table(1)

Population growth rate in Iraq and the world for different years (2003-2020) percentages

<i>year / details</i>	<i>Population growth rate in Iraq</i>	<i>global population growth rate</i>
2003	2.70	1.25
2005	2.72	1.26
2010	1.99	1.23
2015	3.58	1.18
2020	2.46	1.09

Source: <https://population.un.org/wpp>

The third topic

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. Conclusions

- 1. Most countries of the world have been interested in planning the population and organizing the family sector. Countries have varied directions in following the appropriate policy in line with their nature and needs in the present and the future.*
- 2. Due to the increase in births and the increasing human needs, which generated high pressure on the Chinese government to provide the requirements of a decent life for all.*
- 3. The United States reduced its growth rates to 1.7% in 1996, then decreased to 1.5 in 2005, and it continues with this population policy for the purpose of achieving its strategic goals and providing the general requirements of the population on its land.*
- 4. Iraq has no competition in planning and organizing the population in terms of numbers and types, just as it did not follow a housing planning method or a specific or expansionist private housing policy in Iraq, but rather left the issue in its natural form.*
- 5. The rate of population growth in Iraq fluctuates every time and it is without interference or planning by the government, as it provides, according to the constitution, the necessary necessities for all the population in the land of Iraq.*
- 6. The reality and prospects of population planning in Iraq did not differ from the past decades that were clarified in the foregoing. Rather, this period is characterized by several advantages that affected the population and the Iraqi economy in general.*

2. Recommendations.

- 1. It is necessary for the competent authorities in Iraq to submit specialized studies on the nature of the desired housing for the family sector in Iraq.*
- 2. The competent authorities must define a long-term strategy that is compatible with the growth of the population size in Iraq to be able to provide housing units for all.*

3. *The Iraqi government should adopt the construction of housing projects of different types and specifications according to the plans of the Iraqi Housing Authority, and they will be sold at a competitive price within specific conditions.*
4. *The necessity for the Iraqi Investment Commission to have a prominent role in directing investments towards housing and providing the necessary facilities for the establishment of these projects.*
5. *The Iraqi government can develop a practical program to end the housing crisis according to a flexible strategy with specific future goals that focus on providing housing units for all.*

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