

Abstract

The main aim of the master thesis titled “Nation-Building in Iraq after 2003” is to evaluate the success of nation-building processes in Iraq between 2003 and 2011. The analytical approach of the German political scientist Jochen Hippler serves as a theoretical and terminological starting point. The thesis is divided into five chapters. The first chapter deals with the general and conceptual problems and of the terms “nation” and “nation-building”. This is followed by a brief overview of Iraqi history. The next part is devoted to Hippler’s three central elements of successful nation-building applied to the Iraqi context (i.e. integrating ideology, national integration and state-building). The third chapter explores whether ethnosectarian identities are subordinate to Iraqi national identity. The fourth chapter is focused on Kurdish-Iraq relations and its potential implications for territorial (and economic) cohesion of Iraq and the following chapter deals with capabilities of the state apparatus concerning governance, providing security and delivering basic services. In conclusion, the level of success is summarized in the three dimensions respectively as well as with regard to overall nation-building process in Iraq.