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Abstract

This research study analyzes and evaluates the future economic prospects of the Palestinian economy if the regional economic cooperation initiatives being proposed by Israel and supported by United States of America, the European Union, and some countries in the region.

The researcher demonstrates in his study that the proposed model of regional cooperation, while under a seemingly good pretext, is intended to serve Israel and put the other countries in the region at disadvantage; using the Palestinian economy as a gateway for integrating Israel's economy with that of the Arab and Muslim world.

The study is divided into five chapters as follows:

Chapter one: This chapter provides an introduction to the developments that occurred as a result of the collapse of the socialist system, the proliferation and control of capitalism of the world economy, and the beginning of the peace process in the Middle East, which was coupled with the emerging talks of regional economic cooperation. The researcher sheds light on the problem being addressed by the study and presents the research methodology in this chapter.

Chapter two: This chapter provides the conceptual framework of the study. The researcher explains the concepts behind regional economic cooperation and the thoughts of the American Liberal School which call for an open world economy (freeing international trade), as well as the countries that officially support these concepts. The researcher also summarizes previous studies on this topic and the hidden agenda behind regional cooperation.

Chapter three: This chapter examines the regional economy, giving a particular focus on the attributes of the Palestinian economy and the function of these attributes under a regional cooperation scenario. This chapter also focuses on the effects of the Israeli economic policies on the Israeli economy.

Chapter four: This chapter examines the realistic possibilities of developing the Palestinian economy under the regional economic cooperation scenario and in view of the Oslo Agreements. The researcher sheds light on the Palestinian economic policy and the impact of foreign aid on the Palestinian economy.

Chapter five: This chapter highlights the conclusions of the study, and provides –with some degree of detail- the most appropriate alternatives to the proposed model.

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