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مركز نون للدراسات الاستراتيجية
Noon Association for Strategic Studies

District of Sinjar between Past and Present, and Horizons of Future

NASS

Policies Analysis Unit

2017 March / 26

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for Strategic Studies**

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Abstract:

This study attempts to shed the light on an Iraqi city that witnessed instability throughout different times of history. This instability has many reasons including geographical facts intertwined with historical ones. In addition, the reasons include different administrations, and various society structures that have been affecting the city, its life style and its future. This issue made NASS comprehensively investigate its reasons or grounds, and its implications, in order to subjectively discuss the problem under the conflict among more than one administration trying to control it. The study also discusses some potential scenarios of the future.

Introduction:

The city of Sinjar represents a strategic axis with Syria from the west, Turkey from the north and its geographical borders with the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. As known, Sinjar is one of the most important and stable districts of Nineveh until the time of the American invasion to Iraq in 2003. Later, the city started to witness instability, coinciding with an instable situation among the various components of the city, which was deepened between every now and then until it fell under ISIS, followed by holding people as captives, looting, and destruction of everything in the city until it was liberated by the Kurdish Peshmerga forces, ending a painful period of time under the an extreme ideology. The extreme ideology of ISIS considered the vast majority of Sinjar people as supporters of “war house”, considering them as infidels, without any consideration of the humanitarian side of the city and its people.

After discussing these scientific scenarios related to the future of the city of Sinjar, the question is: which of these potential options will be most probably taken? Here, NASS notes that any of the mentioned options is possible. However, preferring one of the scenarios over the others is determined by a strong will of the people of Sinjar themselves in determining their future and the best way through which they can establish a better future whether with the help from Baghdad or Erbil, or Baghdad and Erbil together.

