

# Thinking About Iraq: Revisiting Durkheimian Anomie on Religious Violence, Sectarianism and Geo-politics

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## Abstract

*The increasing challenges and complexities engendered by socio-economic and cultural dynamics inherent in modern society have been inundated with pockets of violent conflict in religious content. The current political impasse in Iraq has gravitated towards (anomie) in which sectarian killings, religious crisis and violent conflicts have become more profound in the post Saddam Hussein epoch. This paper uses an interesting and rather neglected theoretical discussion of Emile Durkheim's exposition on socially constructed causes of Suicide in order to shed light on the season of anomie that pervades contemporary Iraqi society vis-à-vis ethno-religious and sectarian violence. This is a potentially useful model for the case discussed, and it also makes eminent sense to locate the root of present anomie in Iraq at the behest of the discourse of power relations at global level, and in the context of manipulation and defiance at the level of the United Nation system. In this article it is envisioned that the appropriate social sanctions and statutory reprimands be enforced on erring members and actors who tend to violate or manipulate the sanctity of the United Nation system for hegemonic economic interest, and that appropriate mechanisms be put in place to ensure that the task of nation-building is left to the Iraqi peoples themselves rather than being teleguided externally, as this is the only recipe for peace and stability for the Middle East in general, and for Iraq in particular.*

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