



## The Relationship between Democracy, Green Energy, Foreign Trade, and Environmental Sustainability in Country Iraq

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### Extended Abstract

#### Introduction

Given the increasing importance of environmental issues and the challenges facing countries in achieving sustainable development, a better understanding of the relationship between democratic governance, the use of renewable energy, and trade policies is an inevitable necessity. On the other hand, identifying how these factors affect environmental indicators can help policymakers design optimal strategies to reduce environmental degradation and enhance sustainability. Foreign trade can play a dual role in environmental improvement or degradation. On the one hand, international trade can improve environmental quality through the transfer of clean technologies and environmental innovations; but on the other hand, in the absence of appropriate regulations, it may lead to increased pressure on natural resources and further pollution. Therefore, a simultaneous and integrated examination of these three factors can provide a more comprehensive understanding of the relationships between economic, environmental, and governance policies. Given the importance of the subject, this study attempts to analyze the relationship between these factors and their effects on Iraq's environmental indicators.

#### Methodology

This research is designed as a descriptive-analytical study and uses quantitative approaches to examine and analyze the relationships between different variables. In this study, Autoregressive Distributed Lag model (ARDL) was used to examine the impact of democracy, green energy, and foreign trade on environmental progress in Iraq from 2006 to 2022. These methods provide the ability to examine the long-term and short-term effects of variables and allow for the analysis of the complex relationships between democracy, green energy, foreign trade, and environmental progress.

#### Findings and Conclusions

The results show that increased carbon emissions are associated with democracy in Iraq, especially in a situation where economic and political pressures to accelerate economic

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growth increase energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Also, renewable energies (green energies), although they may have an incremental effect on carbon emissions in the short term, can help reduce carbon emissions and improve environmental quality in the long term. On the other hand, foreign trade has had negative effects on the environment due to Iraq's dependence on fossil energy resources, so Iraq needs green and sustainable trade policies. Also, in this study, the error correction coefficient is -0.3807. This coefficient shows that about 38.07 percent of the short-term imbalance is adjusted in each period and the system moves towards long-term equilibrium.

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**Keywords:** Democracy, Green Energy, Foreign Trade, Environment, Sustainability.

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