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The Role of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Promoting the Culture of Peace and Cooperation in the Middle East in 2000-2022

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Review Article

Abstract

INTRODUCTION: The Middle East has always been known as a region full of tension and chaos, and especially in the last two decades, it has been involved with all kinds of insecurity, violence, war, terrorism, etc. This research was conducted with the aim of investigating the role of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in promoting the culture of peace and cooperation in the Middle East during the period from 2000 to 2022.

METHODS: The current research is of a secondary type, which was conducted in the form of a Narrative Review and data with related topics were reviewed and collected from domestic databases such as Magiran, Noormags, SID and RCS, as well as IFRC and ICRC.

FINDINGS: The findings of the research indicate that the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has promoted the culture of peace and cooperation in the Middle East countries in various ways, such as: providing health care services, managing war dead bodies with dignity, cash aid to local communities in need and the impoverished, inviting the warring parties to peace and respecting the humanitarian rights of civilians, supporting the human rights of ethnic and religious minorities, helping to provide the minimum essential needs of war refugees, following up and helping to settle war-affected immigrants, dealing with the affairs of prisoners and prisoners of war, trying to find missing people, dealing with the separation of families and missing children, providing clean water and food packages for the people, and encouraging the activists of the conflicts to avoid mistreatment of detainees, not to use chemical, biological, nuclear weapons and mines, and to avoid attacking civilians.

CONCLUSION: The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement with all its elements and components (such as International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and National Societies of Red Crescent and Red Cross) has tried to be effective in political stability and promoting peace and cooperation between political and social groups in the Middle East countries by protecting the life and dignity of war victims and helping the injured as well as reducing violence and terrorism, and play a role in creating reconciliation between "inherent human dignity" and "military necessity".

Keywords: International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement; Peace; Middle East.

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Introduction

Peace and security are among the natural human needs and only in the shadow of this divine gift can one grow in society, and during the war, achieving peace and security has become an unattainable dream. (1) This unfavorable situation has spread, especially in recent years, and today, most parts of the world, in particular the Middle East, have

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experienced extensive and non-extensive violence more than any other time and it is involved in direct and proxy wars, which have been exacerbated by the political games of regional actors and even world powers, and the emergence of economic, cultural, social, etc. crises in the region and the world has widened the dimensions of this situation.

In recent years, the category of "international peace and security" has become an effective and dominant discourse in politics and international relations in the face of military, political, economic, environmental, etc. threats and conflicts to the extent that it has become one of the biggest and most effective issues of global consensus since the early decades of the 20th century especially after the tragedies of World War I and II, promoting and supporting international peace and security. In fact, due to the high speed of the globalization process, the theoretical and practical fields of human life have faced tremendous changes, and as a result of the compression of time and space, various areas of governments-nations have found unbreakable connections with international NGOs in different fields. Among them, international organizations have a prominent role and position and are based on two types of governmental and international NGOs: the first is related to governmental international organizations that are formed and managed by national governments; the second is related to international NGOs that national governments do not have a direct role in its formation and management. (2)

On the other side is the Middle East, which has always been the site of various conflicts and wars throughout history, but since the beginning of the 21st century, with the occurrence of the incident of September 11, 2001 and the attack of the US and the coalition forces on Afghanistan and the attack on Iraq in 2003 created to a new wave of war and unrest, which has led to the spread of violence and terrorism and still these disturbances are observed in many countries of the region such as Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, Lebanon. In fact, civil wars are the biggest scourge of countries, especially in the Middle East. The president of the ICRC says: "In 2017, more than 500 million dollars were allocated to humanitarian operations in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Afghanistan and Myanmar to help and support the people, which this amount was a significant part of the Committee's total operational budget". (3)

The Middle East is one of the security complexes that the security of the governments and its security order underwent a change after the Arab developments. The Middle East is inherently conflict-prone due to some factors, and understanding the root and method of this conflict requires attention to three components; a) a region with several hostile foci; b) more security and political view of the region and less socio-political than thinking about future horizons; c) regional context of security. (4)

The Middle East has been involved in war, violence, killing and political games of the market for selling destructive weapons of mass destruction beyond any other point in time, and with the emergence of economic, cultural and social crises, its terrifying dimensions are increasing. Obviously, in such a situation, problems such as injustice, discrimination, insecurity, terror and hatred threaten human lives more than ever. (5)

Buzan divides the world into seven separate regions and specifies that each region has its own special security formula and the method of resolving conflicts between regions cannot be generalized from one to another. Therefore, the Middle East has a special security formula like the American region, Europe, East Asia, Africa, South America, etc. He sees the similarities within the region very strongly and believes that categories such as interference of ethnic, national, religious and international currents have quickly and easily made the Middle East witness bloody conflicts; this conflict gives permission to other powers to transfer their conflicts field to this region. (6)

Shafiei and Moradi (2013) mentioned in their research that international organizations are considered as one of the most important pillars of maintaining international peace and security. After the establishment of such organizations, international cooperation has also expanded.

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Today, the field of international relations includes not only countries, but also many international organizations, such as regional organizations such as the European Union, the African Union, the Organization of American States (Pan American), etc. Regional organizations are one of the undeniable truths of politics and international relations. Almost all countries of the world are members of at least one regional organization. National governments and the United Nations have formed such organizations in order to maintain international peace and security. (7)

Promoting the culture of peace and ending violence are among the issues that can be achieved through political mechanisms. Since the root of many violences is influenced by extra-regional interference, it should be noted that violence against citizens can never be solely influenced and pressured by foreign actors. Therefore, promoting the culture of peace and cooperation among the domestic actors of the countries in the region has a great impact. That the violence used against citizens delegitimizes the actors who enacted such violence is an emerging awareness that makes the role of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement even more apparent. This is not that violence does not occur, but it means that it is costly and tarnishing for those who use such violence. Therefore, international organizations as supporters of global peace and security can play an effective role in increasing the amount of support needed for vulnerable ones and save people's lives.

Contemporary humanitarian rights, which first started in the Geneva Convention in 1864, which coincided with the establishment of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Henry Dunant, the founder of this Movement, in the book "A Memory of Solferino" presented two basic proposals to alleviate the suffering caused by armed conflict and to reduce the effects of war and violence and to support the victims of armed conflicts: 1) In all countries, national populations volunteer to help the victims based on the principles of neutrality and disinterestedness should be established; 2) The countries of the world should adopt inviolable principles of humanitarianism in order to observe humanitarian standards during wars. (8)

The first proposal led to the creation of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and the second proposal led to the approval of the first Geneva Convention and the development of classical humanitarian law, followed by bilateral and multilateral treaties and humanitarian law documents and covenants, including the four Geneva Conventions and additional protocols and conventions. The Hague Convention, with the initiative of the ICRC, along with relief activities and humanitarian actions and assistance, are committed to the promotion and development of humanitarian rights. In recent years, this important mission is carried out in an organized manner by the national committees of humanitarian rights. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement pursue 4 goals at the top of their activities in order to maintain international peace and security, such as: 1) efforts to relieve human sufferings; 2) trying to ensure human health; 3) trying to preserve human dignity; 4) trying to create lasting peace and friendship peace amongst all peoples. (8)

For more than thirty years, the committee has been serving people affected by war and conflicts in Afghanistan and has been active in seventeen provinces of Afghanistan. The activities of the ICRC in Afghanistan including helping prisoners of war, providing rehabilitation services to disabled people, health services to war victims, distributing food and non-food items, helping internally displaced people and water supply services. (9)

In such a situation, the need to promote a culture of peace leads to the cultivation of beliefs and actions that the people of each country should take according to the special cultural, social and economic structures. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is one of the international institutions that operate independently of governments and promote the culture of peace and cooperation in the international system. This movement is one of the international NGOs whose goal is not economic profit, but in line with the implementation of human rights and activities in the fields of peace

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and providing assistance to people affected by war and disease or unexpected events in the world and acts as a medium to address the concerns of affected people. (10) Therefore, in this research, the most important issue was to investigate the role of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in promoting the culture of peace and cooperation in the Middle East in the period from 2000 to 2022. In further explanation of this issue, it can be said that this Movement is the world's largest humanitarian network that works to prevent and reduce human pain and suffering wherever possible and is always with humanity. The Movement is a global humanitarian network of 80 million people that helps people who are facing accidents, disasters, conflicts and health and social challenges.

This movement consists of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as well as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The origins of this movement began with the founding of the International Committee of the Red Cross in 1863 by Henry Dunant, a Swiss businessman, social activist, and philanthropist who was compelled to act by the horrors he witnessed during the Battle of Solferino. He then turned to forming relief committees, or National Societies, to train peacetime volunteers who would treat the wounded in wartime. This was the beginning of a Movement that later expanded and included a wide range of humanitarian activities. (11)

National Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent act globally through their volunteers in the member countries, and all members rush to help each other when accidents occur and deal with treatment, resettlement of displaced persons and refugees of natural disasters or wars.

Methods

The current research is of secondary type in the form of Narrative Review. Data with related topics were reviewed and collected in the form of library and documents from domestic databases such as Magiran, Noormags, SID and RCS, as well as IFRC and ICRC by browsing the contents and topics in the period from 2000 to 2022.

Findings

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

The Movement with a bagful of precious experiences of noble people like Henry Dunant is a layer of humanity and maintaining peace and friendship in the field of the international system. In this regard, he did not give up any efforts and always tried to bring hope of life to needy and helpless people in the most difficult conditions. (8) This Movement and the ICRC objectified the idea of glorifying the effects of war, because this institution always tries to create a balance and reconciliation between the concept of "military necessity" and "inherent human dignity" and in various ways, it helps to apply this balance, which is also the goal of humanitarian law. This Movement combines the realities of the international community with individual idealism and always prefers altruism over justice (9).

The performance of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in promoting the culture of peace and cooperation

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has three important components, each of which has distinct but close and complementary roles with capacities that can be provided to other members to support people in some of the most vulnerable times. The ICRC together with the Movement's partners, in support of the National Societies inside the countries, coordinates protection and assistance to people affected by hostilities and armed or internal conflicts, and strives to ensure respect and implementation of international humanitarian law. Also, in order to protect and help the people affected by the conflict, it provides medical services, supports detainees and reunites families separated by the conflict. (11)

The Movement's distinctive symbols act as powerful symbols of protection and neutrality, allowing workers to safely operate in conflict zones and ensure vital aid is delivered to those who need it most. In addition to the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the Red Crystal emblem was introduced in 2005 to accommodate countries that

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do not use either symbol for cultural or political reasons. (11)

National Societies help the authorities in the humanitarian field, respond to humanitarian and health emergencies and support vulnerable people in their respective countries. They are active nationally and rooted in local communities across their country. Many even support National Societies in their own country during an international response. (11)

The Movement relies heavily on the dedication and commitment of the volunteers of the National Societies (because) these volunteers selflessly spend their time and energy to provide relief and support to vulnerable people and communities. Their work ranges from disaster response and medical care to education and community preparedness. (11)

The International Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and the ICRC objectified the idea of glorifying the effects of war (because) this institution always tries to create a balance and reconciliation between the concept of "military necessity" and "inherent human dignity" and in various ways, it helps to apply this balance, which is also the goal of humanitarian law. This movement combines the realities of the international community with individual idealism and always prefers altruism over justice. (12)

The Middle East is the primary cradle of civilizations in the world and is a strategic region in terms of geography and energy, because a high percentage of the earth's oil is in this place, and this region is the most turbulent and crisis-prone area in the world; however, observations and experiences confirm this. Due to various ideological-historical roots, there are always areas of chaos in this region throughout history, but factors such as the creation of a newly established country called Israel in in the land of Palestine, the emergence of religious extremist groups in various places in the region, etc., ensured disorder not only in the Middle East but also in the geography of the Islamic world forever. Such issues have led to the failure of peace talks in the Middle East, and the crisis will continue and the field of insecurity and conflict in this region have intensified in this region. (13)

If we look at the developments of the Middle East as the center of Islamic civilization from a civilization' view, compared to the ancient civilizations of China, India and even Latin America, the Middle East is the only ancient civilization that has not come to terms with the new global developments and is still in confrontation and challenge with it. The coordinates of the Middle East are more consistent with the model of state security than human security. The reason is due to the characteristics of this region, which until now, there has not been a noticeable change or transformation in them in a way that does not cause problems. (14) Finally, it must be said that after more than 160 years, the Movement is as always committed to reducing human suffering beyond politics, religion and nationality. (11)

The performance of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in promoting the culture of peace and cooperation

According to Fiona Terry (2011), in many cases, humanitarian organizations welcome their role as actors in the battle between "good" and "evil". A new philosophy is emerging among many humanitarian organizations, according to which providing aid to people in areas controlled by terrorist groups and any dialogue with said groups is considered as helping the enemy. According to Terry's opinion, the neutral approach in the aforementioned new conflicts is considered as "impossible", "obsolete" and even lacking moral justification, and the integrated political, military, and humanitarian approach in nation building is welcomed as the future method. (15 & 16)

Since the establishment of the ICRC in 1863, this organization has worked to support and assist victims of armed conflicts and other violent situations. In the beginning, the focus of this organization's activities was on wounded soldiers, but over time, it expanded its activities to cover all victims of such events.

Initially, the ICRC did not intend to operate on the battlefield. However, the National Societies of the belligerent countries-considered too close to their own authorities-asked the Committee to

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send relief workers to the scene because they believed that doing humanitarian work during a conflict requires providing sufficient guarantees for neutrality and independence that all parties can accept, and this work could only be done by the ICRC. As a result, it became necessary for the ICRC to review its operational activities quickly and within the framework of the principles of neutrality and independence, in order to serve both sides of the battlefield. This function was later formalized, that is, when the completely humanitarian nature of this organization was specified in the Geneva Conventions. As a result, the organization assumed a special role to ensure the strict application of international humanitarian law. (16)

Accordingly, the ICRC describes its mission in the organization's statutes as follows: "The ICRC is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose purely humanitarian mission is to protect and protect the lives and dignity of victims. Armed conflicts and other violent situations and providing assistance to them. The ICRC also tries to prevent people's suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian rights and universal human principles. Since its establishment, this organization is the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. International activities that are carried out by members of the Movement during armed conflicts and other violent situations are directed and coordinated by the ICRC.

The activities of the ICRC have a dual nature and have been developed in two directions. The first is the operational track that includes helping victims of armed conflicts and other violent situations. The second one includes the formulation and promotion of international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles. Of course, these two lines of work are closely related; because the former is in the framework created by the latter, and the latter is based on the experiences gained from the former and facilitates the response process of the ICRC to the identified needs. As a result, this dual nature creates the identity of the ICRC and distinguishes it from other international, private or intergovernmental humanitarian organizations, because each of them generally focuses on one of these two priorities. (16)

The concept of peace in the international political system

The word "peace" is used only in the literal meaning of reconciliation, friendship, compromise, etc. The doctrine of peace should be considered as one of the most important considerations in the field of opinion and practice, that too in the realm of the normative approach. In fact, the doctrine of peace and its related studies try to find the available possibilities for the establishment of peace in the general changes of societies through social revolution and in transnational communities. According to this approach, the best way to achieve peace is participation and implementation of ideas and opinions, not to simply the events and possible incidents in the field of international politics. In line with its normative approach, peace doctrine aims to establish a logical relationship between theory and practice. (17)

The peace that is obtained in the light of peace brings human progress. Continuous education for many generations is a factor that gradually makes it easy to understand the philosophy of peace. Referring to the valuable ideas and thoughts of a philosopher like Kant, which requires education, led to the emergence of other philosophers such as Fichte, Hegel, and Schopenhauer, whose result is the precious element and the oldest human need, namely peace. (18)

Sustainable peace is one of the fundamental ideals of mankind, along with justice, prosperity, and development. Although the high value of peace has not been able to force mankind to establish peaceful relations throughout history. Therefore, during the 3500 years of written history, only a little more than 200 years, the human society has tasted peace and tranquility. (19)

The first and most important goal in international relations is to maintain international peace and security, which is entrusted to the Security Council according to Article 24 of the United Nations Charter. Currently, despite the fact that there is no war between countries, there may

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not be peaceful relations between countries, and this means that the concept of peace in international relations has changed.

Peace from the perspective of international law

International law can be considered as the best tool to achieve an order that has a global aspect, and one of its duties is leadership against the destructive factors of world peace. This positive legal system works similar to the internal legal system and its emphasis is on the duty of each member of the world community, nations and their rights. For a better understanding of achieving world peace, it is important to examine the developments of recent centuries, especially the last four centuries. Since the foundation of the current structure of the international system began at the time of the Peace of Westphalia and the end of the religious wars in Europe especially in the early 19th century and with the developments in France and the industrial revolution, and then the beginning of the 20th century with the Bolshevik revolution, the great anti-colonial wave and the national liberation Movements for independence and the formulation of the United Nations Charter, which in paragraph 1 of Article 2 emphasizes the equality of sovereigns in The United Nations has changed the structure of the international system from a hierarchy to a horizontal level.

Regarding the future world society, if we want it to be a peaceful society, instead of considering the individual interests of certain governments, we need to focus more on global collective interests. As a result, prioritizing duties becomes more important than rights. International law needs to pay attention to this in order to achieve continuous peace. In the same way, philosophy of law, different sources of law and the international legal system are considered decisive tools that seem to have been neglected in this matter. One of the good examples that prove that rights have been paid more than duties is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Declaration of the People's Right to Peace approved by the General Assembly in 1984 and its annex emphasizing the principles and goals of the United Nations Charter to maintain international peace and security, paying attention to the development and progress of countries and the main duty of each country to maintain the peaceful life of the people as a fundamental duty and it is called the sacred right of the people.

In 1625, when the most important relations between countries were based on war, Hugo Grotius discussed the legitimacy of war in his book Laws of War and Peace. This is while at that time slavery was a dominant custom of human societies. He makes some criticisms and initiatives on the law of war, which fundamentally transforms the law of war from an anti-moral process and, as a result, creates a form of just war. He emphasizes that although the war can start without introduction and formality, but according to the laws of war, due to the fact that some concessions and works can be cited, it needs formality. He enumerates two factors for the legality of war: one is that it must be created by two parties with legal sovereignty, and the other is that its initiation must be accompanied by some formalities such as an official announcement, in such a way that it can be recognized by the warring parties.

Similar to other legal concepts that evolved over time and with the efforts of scientists such as Bynkershoek, Gentili, Pufendorf, Wattel, Hobbes and Rousseau; In order to achieve sustainable peace, we must first talk about the limits and laws of war so that countries accept its prohibition. Rousseau is one of the first philosophers who thought about the natural state of man and the nature of the social contract to get out of the natural state, which is the result of the social contract. According to him, justice without freedom is meaningless and beyond this it should be said: justice can never be imagined without peace.

Geoffrey Robertson's "Crimes against Humanity" narrates the following about the correspondence that took place during the Sarajevo wars: "If someone kills someone, they put him in prison. When someone kills twenty people, they say he is a psychopath, but if someone kills twenty thousand people, they invite him to Geneva for peace talks". (20)

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In the international community, in dealing with any threat against international peace and security, executive guarantee is mandatory. Although these factors are incomplete, they act as a middle ground between war and words. When nations, individuals, and rebellious groups violate international norms, the inherent right of legitimate defense comes into play, and the only exception today is resorting to force. (21)

In the teaching of classical international law, it was believed that the absence of war would bring peace, but this approach is no longer applicable. In modern international law, peace will only be achieved when public security is established in the international community, a security in the shadow of which, human rights and justice are widely desired; because these two, as the special informant of the International Law Commission also admits, are considered to be the main examples of international mandatory rules in modern international law. (22)

Peace situation in the Middle East

This region is very influential and penetrating in front of the international system and therefore, we witness more disasters and humanitarian issues in it. At the beginning of the 21st century, this problem has increased in the Middle East due to the events of September 11, 2001, and has turned the Middle East into one of the tensest areas of the world system. Before this, during the international sanctions against Iraq, increasing humanitarian problems had arisen for the people of this country. America's focus on the developments in Afghanistan and Iraq and the issues of Lebanon and Palestine with military priorities has caused the Middle East to become a sub-military with the ability to move internationally. (21)

Major reasons have caused peace and security in the Middle East to become one of the most important and vital issues for various countries and actors in the field of the international system, including (23):

- The world's vulnerability to developments in the Middle East, especially since the oil crisis of the 1970s and instability in energy exports;
- Security concerns in the Middle East, especially the issue of terrorism and Islamic fundamentalism;
- The spread of weapons of mass destruction in the region;
- Arms, drugs and human trafficking in the region;
- The creation of stability and security in the countries around the region is tied to the internal security and stability of the Middle East;
- The economic partnership of many countries and extra-regional organizations with the countries and organizations of the region and as a result their economic interests are tied to each other;
- The need to promote democracy and take advantage of consultation and diplomatic tools and software policies in relation to the countries of the region.

All these cases have caused the issue of peace and security in the Middle East to become one of the most important and vital issues for various countries and actors in the international system. (23)

The experience of developments in the Middle East for several decades after World War II shows that the emphasis on national security has not only not been secure for the countries of the region and has not been reliable and reassuring for the countries of the region, but has also caused humanitarian issues to be severely undermined and even the humanitarian issues of the region should be forgotten.

The historical experience of the region shows that the developments after World War II were more hostile than cooperative. In other words, the Middle East has not been calm in any decade, and in the past six decades since World War II, it has witnessed an average of four hostile incidents per decade (21).

Security features of the Middle East

One of the important aspects of the Middle East is its geographical feature in creating a connection between the East and the West. In the past, the connection between Asia, Africa and Europe depended entirely on the Middle East. The existence of seven international waterways, Gibraltar, the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles, the

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Bab al-Mandab, Hormuz, the Suez Canal and Tiran, have formed important communication and trade links. In the past, the lucrative trade of silk and spices, and then the transport of slaves, ivory, gold and coal, was important to Europe, and today oil and gas as the energy bases of the West and the world are heavily dependent on this transit role in the Middle East. The opening of the Suez Canal in 1866 connected the Atlantic and Indian Oceans via the Mediterranean and Red Seas, reducing the cost of arduous travel by 40-50 percent. Also, in the vicinity of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, the six seas of Oman, Mediterranean, Black, Red, Caspian and Persian Gulf are located, which have been used for trade and created the ground for many conflicts. (24)

The coordinates of the Middle East are more consistent with the model of state security than human security. The reason for this is the characteristics of the region, which have not yet undergone a significant change or transformation in a way that is not problematic. Because of these characteristics, Buzan (2002) calls the Middle East an “a perennial conflict formation”. In fact, the Middle East has never been calm enough to think beyond the concept of stability and peace. In such circumstances, thinking about human concepts is automatically marginalized or not seriously emphasized. (21)

At the same time, this region has always been considered as a region of dispute between the world powers of the time and above all has been at the center of global conflicts and struggles and is a matter of national and international security interest in a realistic manner. This has led to a culture of "crossroads" in the region. This means that the region has always been important for the passage or plunder of natural resources by the powers of the time and the great countries have never been effective for the region itself. Being a crossroads of events brings a kind of suspension and insecurity, and an important part of the Movements of the region is subject to global practices and considerations. (22)

Security features due to fossil energy reserves in the region

The second characteristic of the Middle East, which has made this region to be included in the framework of national and state security and to strengthen this process, is the discovery of oil reserves, which was first discovered in 1908 in the Masjed Soleyman in Khuzestan province, Iran. And it caused a tremendous transformation in the lifestyle of the people of the region and its movement from tribal traditions to modern and new life. In the past, the people of the region lived with desert transportation, the possibility of border loading and the discovery of pearls in the depths of the seas, but suddenly, after a century, they entered modern global life with all its necessities. Meanwhile, abundant oil revenues have led to the formation of a rent state in the region. The oil-revenue government, which does not depend much on its own domestic revenues, imposes its own particular patterns on the people and society and is more interested in oil relations with the major oil-buying powers than its own people. Such governments, which benefit from international support, are far from their people and keeping these countries in their present form through the benefits of a steady supply of energy to the west increases imperialist tendencies. In addition to all these issues, because the majority of countries in the region are oil sellers, they do not need economic cooperation with each other, and in other words, the economies of these countries are not complementary to form relations between them. This economic convergence brings both fields of cooperation and competition, as did the 1973 oil shock and the Persian Gulf wars of 1979 and 1991, 1992 and 2003. (18)

Security features due to geo-political demarcations and the formation of the new map of the Middle East

The security features resulting from political-geographical boundaries and the formation of the new map of the Middle East is the third factor in the formation of the new map of the Middle East, which was mainly carried out by the colonialists, especially England and France. This has not only strengthened the layers of the imperialist view among the people of the region, but has become the basis for important conflicts between the countries of the region. Iraq's invasion of Iran and Kuwait and the existence of 16 border disputes

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between member countries of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council are among them. (25) At the same time, the forced inclusion of Israel in the map of the region is also one of the issues that fuels anti-Western and imperialist sentiments in the region. These factors not only do not help to strengthen human issues, but also harm it more. (21)

Security features due to population settlement in the Middle East

The Middle East has many desert areas and therefore, the population of the region is scattered and far from each other, and with the colonial classification of the region and the advantage of oil in it, several special forms of government have emerged that are more than complementary to each other. They are repulsed and even try to prove their legitimacy by denying others. The political systems in the Middle East are: Kingdom (Jordan, Saudi Arabia and countries bordering the Persian Gulf); Dominant single party (Iraq during Saddam and Syria); Republic (Yemen, Iraq after Saddam, Republic of Turkey and Islamic Republic of Iran); and multi-party. Each of these states has a different structure due to its geographical features and lifestyle. Republic countries are mostly populous and arable and sometimes they use energy resources. On the other hand, kingdom countries are not very populated and at the same time, they are rich in terms of energy resources. These two systems, like during the time of Jamal Abdul Nasser and Saddam Hussein, were in a conflict of legitimacy. However, nowadays, identity and sovereignty issues have prevailed over pan-Arabism patterns. (26)

At the same time, conservative countries are mostly rich and have a lot of non-native and immigrant manpower, which leads to their own humanitarian issues. For example, the United Arab Emirates has 80% of its migrant workforce. (25) While these groups are considered an important labor force in these countries, they do not have the possibility of citizenship and face the security view of the receiving country, and most importantly, these migrations are mostly not permanent. (21)

Security features caused by the cultural gap in the Middle East

The Middle East is a multicultural, multi-ethnic and multilingual region. Various Islamic, Jewish, Arab, Iranian and Christian cultures have led to the formation of numerous movements in the region. Arabic, Persian and Turkish are the most common conventional languages in the region. From an internal point of view, cultural, linguistic and ethnic diversity has caused differences and conflicts in the countries of the region in two ways. Ethnic conflicts such as Kurds and Palestinians are the most important of these conflicts, and at the same time, Islamic Movements are heavily accused due to the weak Movements of their rulers in front of the big powers.

In the region, Shia and Sunni Movements, Arab and non-Arab, Kurd and Arab, Kurdish and Turkish and Turkish and Arab Movements have some conflict or competition with each other. Cultural beliefs and especially Islam in the region are intertwined with national and state symbols. (15)

At the extra-regional level, the issue of Islamism and opposition to the great powers is of interest, which appeared as a confrontation between Islam and democracy and goes back to the origin of democracy rather than a content confrontation. (27)

In general, Arab nationalism, Islamism, opposition to Zionism and Anti-Westernism have added to the complexities of the Middle East. (15)

All in all, peace and security in the Middle East has been influenced by various factors and events, one of the most important of which is the US military presence in the two countries of Afghanistan and Iraq and the fall of the governments of these countries which has brought the Middle East into a new phase of tension and conflict. (28)

Some actions of the Movement in order to achieve peace and cooperation in the Middle East

The most important measures and activities in this area are: (12)

- Supporting prisoners of war from many wars in the Middle East, such as the Iran-Iraq war

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and etc., and the post-war era in the form of exchange of prisoners' names, create guide cards, conducting research on the prevailing conditions, tracking missing artifacts, and sending official documents, letters, packages and money;
- Visiting the prisoners of the camps by the representatives of the Committee, with the aim of discussing and exchanging opinions with the hostile governments to improve the condition of the prisoners, as well as preparing objective reports of their condition and sometimes publishing for the governments and the prisoners' families;
- Relief operations such as sending personal or collective aid packages to prisoners, establishment of hospitals, building a place to feed the needy, establishing equipped houses for children, disinfection of places, improvement of health centers and etc.;
- Returning prisoners to their homeland during and after the war;
- Interpreting humanitarian law regulations and providing guidelines for the use of belligerents;
- Dealing with the complaints raised in the field of violation of humanitarian rights, follow-up, investigation and response to the complaints. (12)

General goals & tasks of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in the Middle East

The Movement in the Middle East is active in various fields, including:
- Improving the resistance of communities through the provision of humanitarian services to the most vulnerable groups of people affected by natural disasters, war and unfortunate circumstances; (29)
- Cooperation and assistance in order to reduce human pains and sufferings of the affected people caused by natural and manmade disasters regardless to their racial, religion, ethnicity, belief, color, property, sex, language and political affiliations; (30)
- Forming a strong, self-sufficient and responsive National Society at all level; (29)
- Protecting the wounded in war according to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and its additional protocols; (30)
- Strengthening cooperation in accordance with the basic principles of societies, movements and relevant foreign authorities in order to provide sustainable humanitarian services; (29)
- Promoting social participation and the culture of intimacy among employees and target communities; (29)
- Saving lives, guaranteeing the future. Wherever a war occurs, the Committee intervenes to preserve and protect people's lives and livelihoods. The Committee's members take care of the immediate material needs of people and try to do something so that the usual consequences of a conflict such as illness, injury, hunger, loss of income and exposure to dangerous factors do not endanger their life and future; (31)
- Distribution of cash and non-cash aid to the needy; (30)
- Attracting the cooperation and support of national and international charitable individuals and institutions; (30)
- Independence to provide livelihood. In some cases, assistance is provided in the form of small cash grants so that families have the right to choose in meeting their needs . Markets and local producers often benefit indirectly from these grants .In other cases, the Movement helps people to start small businesses or produce their own food; (31)
- Sending representatives to war zones to perform humanitarian duties; (30)
- Submitting reports of natural and manmade disasters to the IFRC and the ICRC; (30)
- Economic security. Where there is armed conflict or other forms of violence, the Committee helps people meet their essential and basic needs by providing food, cooking facilities, shelter, clothing, hygiene items, etc.; (30)
- Long-term needs. The Movement is also concerned with how families and all members of a society can become self-sufficient and economically secure. The ICRC aims to ensure that people can meet their needs and become independent in the long term. Since, based on the commitment of the organization, those who are deprived of their freedom due to the conflict are also covered by the support services of the Movement, therefore, it is tried to meet the food and health needs of the prisoners where necessary; (30)
- Assisting and organizing financial assistance to human needs caused by natural and

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manmade disasters inside and, if possible, abroad; (30)
- Providing water and shelter; (31)
- Inadequate services and health status; (31)
- Medical care. Because during the war, medical care is needed more than any other time; (31)
- Contamination with explosive devices; (30)
- Physical rehabilitation and return to society. In the physical rehabilitation programs, physiotherapy and mobility aids are provided (prosthetics, orthotics, mobility aids and wheelchairs); (30)
- Forensic medicine and humanitarian actions: The Committee's forensic experts help local organizations to process human remains during and after conflict and to identify corpses in their subsequent efforts, sometimes it continues long after the conflict has ended. (31)

In fact, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in the Middle East providing aid; economic security; long-term needs; providing water and shelter; medical care; contamination with explosive devices; physical rehabilitation and return to society; forensic medicine and humanitarian actions.

Discussion and Conclusion

We live in a world that has been continuously involved in war and unrest throughout history and has made living in peace and security an unattainable dream for mankind. In such a situation, the need for peace is well evident. This unfavorable situation has spread to most parts of the world, especially in recent years.

The Middle East has always been the site of various conflicts and wars throughout history, and today, more than any other era, it has experienced violence and direct and proxy wars. The play of regional actors has also fueled its escalation and the emergence of economic, cultural, social, etc. crises in the region and the world has widened its dimensions. In such a situation, the lives of the residents of the region are threatened and their military, economic, social, etc. security is at risk.

With the occurrence of September 11, 2001 and the events and wars that followed, a new wave of war and riots took place, which continued to spread violence and terrorism, and these riots continued in many countries in the region, such as Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, and Lebanon. It is observed. Today, civil wars are the biggest scourge of countries, especially in the Middle East.

Further, it should be acknowledged that human beings naturally need to live with peace and security in order to grow and excel. This is why many organizations and institutions seek to ensure and maintain peace and tranquility in human life. Among the international organizations that operate independently of governments and promote the culture of peace and cooperation in the field of the international system, is the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

In this research, the role of the Movement in establishing peace and cooperation in the Middle East during the period from 2000 to 2022 was investigated. According to the studies conducted in this research, most of the countries of the Middle East throughout history and especially during the last two decades (2000-2022) have been heavily involved with insecurity issues, and the most important internal and external factors affecting the spread of their insecurity and instability are: ethnic conflicts; heterogeneous and inconsistent structure of security forces (32); US double game in establishing peace.

This Movement and its components have played an active and colorful role in ensuring world peace and in general, its activity is categorized in the form of four axes as follows: helping the victims of international and non-international armed conflicts; providing services in violent situations based on the seriousness of unmet needs and the urgency of the situation; providing unique capabilities, especially in the field of searching for people and spreading and promoting international humanitarian rights and fundamental principles to other elements of the Movement in times of natural or human disasters or an epidemic; and finally, participation in the activities of all humanitarian agencies.

This Movement has significant capabilities and facilities in order to promote the culture of peace and cooperation in the Middle East and tries to compensate the inability of governments to

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provide peace and security as much as possible. In fact, this Movement is based on the approach of neoliberal institutionalism, with measures such as reducing the pressure caused by the anarchic structure of the international system, providing information, reducing costs, making ideas more practical, pooling capabilities, reducing mistrust and doubt by providing information to member countries. Stabilizing mutual expectations through establishing common standards and monitoring the fulfillment of international obligations removes the obstacles and shortcomings in the way of countries to cooperate and create common interests and helps to form peace and cooperation between governments.

According to this research, the main activities of the Movement in the Middle East during the past 22 years have mostly been around these axes: providing physical rehabilitation services and artificial organs, building medical centers to provide services to civilian wounded, dignified management of corpses, especially war corpses, direct and cash aid. To needy and impoverished local communities to meet their essential needs, provide protective equipment for Covid-19 (in the last year) and invite the warring parties to peace, reconciliation and respect the humanitarian rights of civilians, especially during the expansion of violent activities of the Taliban in recent months.

This organization is also active in the field of supporting the human rights of ethnic and religious minorities in Iraq, such as Kurds and Shiites, providing medical services to those injured in war and civil and terrorist conflicts, helping to provide the minimum essential needs of war refugees, following up on the status of immigrants and helping Settlement of war-affected immigrants, dealing with detainees, prisoners and prisoners of war, trying to find missing people, dealing with the separation of families and bringing missing children to their families in the conditions of insecurity and war, providing clean water and food packages for the Iraqi people and encouraging the activists of related conflicts. It has told Iraq to avoid mistreatment of detainees, not to use chemical, biological, nuclear weapons and mines, and to avoid attacking Iraqi civilians.

By carrying out numerous and diverse activities such as aid delivery, economic security, provision of long-term needs, provision of water and shelter, medical care, decontamination with explosive devices, physical rehabilitation and return to society, forensic science and humanitarian action in the mentioned countries, help to create and promote peace and cooperation among the countries of the Middle East.

In the end, it should be said that the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, with all its elements and components, including IFRC, ICRC and National Societies of the Red Cross and Red Cross, has tried to promote political stability and peace and cooperation between political and social groups in the Middle East countries. to be effective and to play a role in the reconciliation between "inherent human dignity" and "military necessity" by protecting the life and dignity of war victims and helping the injured as well as reducing violence and terrorism.

And their slogan is that "We have helped people all over the world who have been affected by armed hostility and other violent situations, and usually with the help of our RCRC partners, we do our best to support their dignity and let’s reduce their pain. We also try to prevent people's problems by promoting and expanding humanitarian rights and universal humanitarian principles. People in affected areas count on our range of lifesaving activities and know that we work closely with local communities to understand and meet their needs. Our experience and expertise enable us to provide a quick, effective and impartial answer. (35)

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None

Conflict of Interests

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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