
Legislations Organize Political Action and Party Transformation in Jordan for The Year 2022

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Abstract

The recent constitutional amendments raised many questions about what they really are and the goals they seek to achieve. This came in the light of criticizing the amendments that faced to obstruct the reform process in Jordan, which faces certain difficult circumstances in the first place. The constitutional amendments came in an attempt to find solutions to the political and economic problems in Jordan. The failure of the government is to reform and develop the lack of confidence of Jordanians in the parliament. It includes the government and political parties. The recent amendments look for actual reform in Jordanian politics, but this remains in need of preparation and time that may extend for years. It confirms the urgent need to persuade, disseminate, and raise awareness of citizens in it. It also supports and continues working on it in the required manner to achieve its desired goal.

Keywords: Legislations organize political action, party transformation, Jordan.

Introduction

Recently, Jordan has witnessed problems and crises at various levels in the political, economic, and other sectors. Unfortunately, they were not temporary or related to a certain stage or period. They actually increased. Their negative impact continued on various social strata, which required finding solutions for these crises and trying to control them. The process of reforming the political system in Jordan begins with amending and adapting the constitutional legislations that govern all political parties and forces to the conditions that Jordan is going to face (Awad 2015). Constitutional amendments are not always supported, and it is not necessary for the amendments to achieve the goal for which they were set. Legal legislation goes through many stages and discussions among those people who are responsible for it in order to identify the attitudes between supporters and opponents of it. They do this in order to reach the stage of ratification to start working with it. In addition to reform, the amendments seek to achieve justice among all segments of society to ensure their participation and equality in rights and duties, and to enable their participation in various fields. So that, this is not limited to a particular group of society (Nasraween 2016).

Research Significance

The research discussed the recent amendments to the Jordanian constitution and the suggestions and recommendations that came out of the royal committee that His Majesty the King called for its establishment. This research also addressed the reasons that called for such amendments. The new legal texts aimed at reforming Jordanian political and legal laws. They also aimed at correcting the democratic, partisan and parliamentary process in Jordan, such as the crises that Jordan has recently been exposed to it in various political, economic, and other sectors. It has some impacts on the country's internal and external politics. The amendments and new legal texts came to move Jordanian politics from one stage to another in a serious way. The democratic and parliamentary structure would be completed. The political laws would be mature, especially the electoral law and the political parties law. These amendments and legal texts also aim at meeting the demands and solving the problems advocated by the Jordanian people, its institutions and parties. This was as a result of the effects left by the recent problems and crises. The political weakness, which forms an important

basis in the country spreads to all different sectors. The recent constitutional amendments focused on the Royal Committee's suggestions and recommendations for various groups in Jordanian society. These constitutional amendments strengthened the role of Jordanian women and youth in the field of political life and participation in Jordanian parties. They aim at educating them politically, as well as encouraging them to integrate into political life and reduce the obstacles that may prevent and weaken that.

Research Problem

This research deals with the reasons that led to the changes in some legal texts, and it also discusses the modernization that takes place in the political system. This was in accordance with the recommendations and proposals that came out of the royal committee to modernize the political system. Jordan has faced many challenges and crises in recent years at the local and international levels. This has exacerbated the problems and amplified them little by little. The Jordanian economy has declined, and the political system has weakened. There was also a malfunction in the internal system. It was necessary to update some laws and organize political, economic, and other sectors. This was done in order to keep pace with the new and ongoing changes and crises that Jordan suffers from. Many people faced these amendments with attacks and opposition to Hazes, and this was not limited to politicians, but the Jordanian people also attacked them. The amendments, their meaning and content were not delivered in the right way to them. There were not enough awareness that was raised about it and taught to the Jordanian people. This is what is being worked on so that the political culture of Jordanians spreads. Thus, the various groups in Jordan are encouraged to participate in politics, and they also contributed to political reform. The previous legal texts did not support the role of women and youth to this extent. They did not care about people with special needs and their right to political participation. After that, the amendments increased women's opportunities to form parties and increased their seats in the House of Representatives. She equated her with the man after her political participation and role. They were somewhat weak for some reasons. There were many obstacles.

Research Questions

This research tries to answer the following questions:

1. What are the reasons for the recent amendment of legal texts?
2. What are the desired goals of the recent amendments, and what will the political reform be?
3. What are the recent amendments to the electoral laws and political parties?
4. What is the position of Jordanian politicians and people on the recent amendments, and how did they express their support or opposition to them?
5. How did the recent amendments enhance the role of women and youth in society?

Research Objectives

This research aims at identifying the recent political legislation and the extent of this transformation. It has brought the political and party system. This study also aims at investigating the extent to which political forces and civil society interact with them.

Research Methodology

The analytical method was adopted. It analyzes the different attitudes towards new legislation and the reasons behind those attitudes. This approach was used to analyze the legislation itself in order to know the purpose and of it. In addition to identify the comparative approach, it appears by comparing the previous situations and the next situation after applying the modifications indirectly.

Constitutional Amendments to Modernize the Political System in Jordan for The Year 2022

The Jordanian House of Representatives recently approved the amendments issued by the Royal Committee's proposals and recommendations to modernize the political system ordered by His Majesty the King. This was done against the background of the latest political and economic developments in the past years. Some of these amendments were rejected and attacked on the pretext that they represent an attempt to destroy the regime and obliterate the Jordanian identity. However, the content of this chapter has been dealt within two sections:

The first topic: The legislation and the procedures contained therein to modernize the political system and the reasons for it.

The second topic: The outcomes of the Royal Committee for the Modernization of the Political System.

The first topic: Legislation and its procedures contained therein to modernize the political system and the reasons for it. They show the fundamental role of legislation in regulating various aspects of people's social life and managing state affairs (Al-Adwan, 2014). The holder of this jurisdiction in Jordan is the legislative authority. The legislative role is the task of the National Assembly. The Jordanian constitution since 1952 also includes its exercise of control over government actions, participation in decision-making, and the issuance of new legislation or making changes to it. This constitution is like the law of parties and the law of publications and publications. Various legislations are constantly subject to amendment or cancellation procedures to keep pace with the rapid growth and development of the political system despite the difficult circumstances it faces (Dhul-Hassan, 2013). The Jordanian society needs to issue laws and amendments on a permanent basis to organize their lives and define their responsibilities and to eliminate political tyranny and the monopoly of opinion. It is not possible to neglect the effects of these emergency amendments to the Jordanian constitution. It affects the legislature, the executive, the parliament, and so on. The most important thing is its impact on the constitutionality of laws and regulations and the interpretation of the constitution. In 2011, a constitutional amendment was made to establish a constitutional court to monitor the laws and regulations issued and to interpret the texts of the law. It, to some extent, guarantees and contributes to reaching the purpose of the amendment and achieving the provisions of the law in a fair and legal manner (Nasraween, 2013). It was the personal view of His Majesty King Abdullah II to establish a royal committee to provide recommendations and suggestions concerning some legal texts. In addition to the legislation and procedures, it goes through amendments, cancellations, or even new approvals. Some laws and regulations, such as the electoral laws and political parties, have been specified to be among a set of issues that the committee will update and amend. The issue of political reform in Jordan is no longer an option from a set of options that we take or leave. Rather, it became an internal necessity before it was an external one. Its function is to strengthen the role of the political system, confirm the work of democracy, and translate the King's keenness to consolidate the foundations of democracy so that it remains a way of life.

Amendments And Cancellation Procedures and Other Reasons

Last year, in June, the King issued a decision to form a special committee to modernize the political system and promote active participation. This decision includes amending the electoral and political laws. This decision was transferred to Parliament to discuss and approve them as effective laws. This was not the first initiative to attempt political reform in Jordan by His Majesty the King. His first initiative was in 2002, when the King tried, in its outputs, to present a comprehensive vision for political and economic reform in Jordan. There are other successive attempts until our time, such as the documents of the Jordan First Committee, 2003, and Al-Dustour newspaper, 2007 (Al-Sarhan, and Al-Shadouh, 2019). Some amendments have been made by the committee and the government in order to maintain security and modernize the political system in order to avoid the recurrence of such events and others. These amendments aim at maintaining calmness in civil society and strive to develop it in all fields. There was a need to develop the role of political parties after the crisis of their effectiveness and their role in the parliament. The reason lies in the lack of public trust towards the parties and the administrative mentality in allowing participation and representation in institutions and universities. The parties were not able to face their weaknesses and face the actual challenges along the way, which led to the disappearance of some of them (Al-Tamari, 2018).

In additions, the participation of Jordanian youth in political life was weak due to the political awareness of the youth, the economic conditions they are going through, and the weak structure of civil society in Jordan. Their participation and presence in the political and partisan arena was an important and contributing factor in the political reform process. Besides the above statements, the last Jordanian elections showed a great reluctance to participate and increased demands to reconsider the laws regulating political life in the country. The need to consider political laws to enhance political participation has also increased. The turnout in the last parliamentary elections did not exceed 30%, while the number of parties' seats in parliament was limited to 12, despite the participation of 47 out of 48 parties and 9% of the total 130 seats in the parliament.

In a report by the National Center for Human Rights and an election monitoring coalition, it showed the presence of grave violations in the recent elections. There was no point in an electoral process that was devoid of democracy and transparency. Where it causes conflicts and disputes in the Jordanian street. Some politicians and former members of the House of Representatives, such as Abla Abu Elba and Faisal Al-Fayez, demanded that amendments should be made to the political system, changes to the parliamentary elections law, and the abolition of the one-vote law (Al-Khasahleh, 2014). The recent electoral law has caused the decline in political life and the establishment of forms of corruption. It was very important to work on amending it in particular and ensuring a fair electoral system that guarantees broad representative participation in the legislative power in the country and paves the way for a future for elected parliamentary governments.

The Positive Effects of These Modifications

The latest amendments came after the difficult crises during the past two years, especially the year 2021. These amendments, approved by the Royal Committee, focused on political and economic life and an attempt to improve it. Will that work? What will happen if it is implemented according to the plan set for it? Political reform came with the aim of improving the political structure and stabilizing its pillars. Various laws that govern political life in Jordan have been regulated. This is done through the most important political laws such as the electoral law and political parties. In the electoral law, there is no doubt that there is a necessary need to amend it (Taybeh, 2009). The reluctance of citizens to participate alone requires consideration of this law. Long thinking about the reasons why there should be a large percentage of the Jordanian people may lead to the people abstaining from voting and participating in this political action. The parliamentary elections did not remain encouraging for participation not only for citizens but also for parties that represent many popular groups that belong to these parties. The constantly increasing violations occur in the parliamentary elections. Therefore, it was necessary to amend the electoral law without controversy. Its application guarantees citizens, parties, and those who are allowed to participate in a fair political process, which guarantees the participation of all with integrity and a greater order than before. In addition, the decrease in differences during that period leads to the dissemination of the state of security and stability. As for the Parties Law, enhancing participation in it and reinforcing its role in the House of Representatives contribute to the development and growth of their role. The greater participation of Jordanian youth and Jordanian women also contributes to shape the sort of development in this country. Making an effective change in it and in its work may lead to a strong development. The presence of different segments of society in it will allow receiving and adopting new and different ideas. There are better ways to achieve the desired goals. Moreover, women in particular will no longer feel inequality or weakness between them and men. The Jordanian law and the recent amendments according to its provisions open the way for women to participate in political life to a greater extent than it was before. It maintains the responsibility by participating, presenting its ideas, promoting its culture and awareness in political life, and developing it to use the powers granted to it in accordance with the law.

Outputs Of the Royal Committee for The Modernization of The Political System

Last year, His Majesty King Abdullah II issued a decree establishing a royal committee. It aimed at modernizing the political system and enhancing political participation by amending the electoral and political party laws. Achieving political will and national interest enhance the identity and development process that Jordan and Jordanians aim for (Al-Khaza'leh 2014). His Majesty the King believes that this committee is a new stage to modernize the state and move towards economic and administrative reforms undertaken by the government. In amending the electoral law, he expects avoiding the events that occurred in the last electoral cycle and trying to avoid all mistakes and problems that led to sowing disputes and quarrels in various regions in the Kingdom. The amendment of the Political Parties Law has further enhanced the participation of these parties, their vision on the scene, and their effectiveness in Jordanian society. Increasing its participation in political life within the laws can enact allowing and facilitating it

Amendment To the Electoral Law and Political Parties Political Parties Law

The issue of parties is considered one of the subjects of constitutional law and constitutional systems. This issue has become one of the pillars of the democratic system. It cannot be abandoned even nowadays. Despite much talk about these parties, their achievement and their relationship to democracy lost contact with the Jordanians. Their weight remained especially after some parties went to make deals with the regime to obtain gains away from the general and basic principles of the parties (Outputs of Democracy 2012). The weak role of political parties is due to the lack of affiliation to it and the weakness of the programs and ideas advocated by the political parties. The legislative obstacles and the one-vote law, which was subjected to many criticisms, have limited the role of political forces including parties. It allows one vote for every citizen regardless of the number of seats allocated to his district (Al-Fraihat 2012). The roles of the parties varied from one place to another according to the system in each country. It generally plays an important role in the political and social process. It shows its role in upbringing, implanting values and political culture. the field of elections. These parties are considered the link between the people and the state. Political parties are also considered one of the tools of political development. Consequently, these parties seek to achieve an advanced democracy. They have an effective role in the political upbringing acquired from the prevailing political values and trends through meetings. The conferences are hold periodically and continuously through the media, publications, and other types of social media.

The outputs of the Royal Committee included in its recommendations the updating of the Political Parties Law to enable the parties' participation in political life and work in peaceful and democratic ways for legitimate purposes. Work is being done to motivate citizens to form parties, participate effectively and freely, and to qualify competent political leaders particularly the young ones. These political leaders are better able to deal with economic, political and social challenges, and hold office. The Parties Law provides for giving political parties an opportunity to develop horizontal participation at the governorate level (Al-Hussami, 2010). As well as, it gives young people and women the opportunity to participate in the founding conference of the party within a period not exceeding one year. To hold the conference, the number of founding members of the party under establishment at the time of the founding conference should not be less than one thousand people. The founders should be residents of at least six governorates (Political Parties Bill Proposals).

This law focused on the participation of women alongside with Jordanian youth in working in political parties. It strengthened the role of people with disabilities in party and public life. This ensures the achievement of justice among the different groups in society. The law specified a certain percentage for the participation of each group of them at different ages. In order to encourage democratic work in the parties, the Secretary-General of the party was prevented from occupying his position for more than two consecutive terms without specifying the term of the term. This was left to the party statute for no more than four years. A department called the Registry of Parties was established. This department aims at achieving more transparency and independence with regard to party affairs by giving the authority to approve applications for establishment to a neutral and independent body in particular from the government. Parties were also allowed to establish political relations with other parties inside or outside the country, or federations of international political parties. This is allowed if they remain within the framework of the national and political interest of the state and continuous adherence to the law and the provisions of the Constitution. The law was concerned with the protection of party members. It ensures that they will not be subjected to, questioned, held accountable, or infringed on their rights because of their party affiliation. This encourages participation in parties. One of the important matters covered by the law is the right of parties to participate effectively in parliamentary elections and obtain seats in the House of Representatives after their role was decreasing one cycle after another.

Election law

There have been developments and improvements in the electoral law in which several aspects have been taken into account. The most important of these aspects is the increase in seats allocated to women. The establishment of a national general district dedicated to parties with 41 seats, and the reduction of the age of the candidate is 25 years. This law also strengthened the path of integrity, transparency, and electoral justice. The people of the desert were allowed to run outside the municipal departments, and others were allowed to run within it. This law includes the twenty-first and twenty-second parliaments. It called for the application of some systems, such as the open system at the local level and the closed system at the national level. Each voter has two votes: the first is for the general district, and the second is for the local district. The voter at the local constituency level may choose a number of candidates. It should be equal to the number of members of the list. In addition to many developments related to electoral standards, the integrity standard is in order to impose some penalties for violators of the new laws regulating the electoral process. The standard of justice stipulates giving the right to participation to youth and enhancing the role of women. The law allows the party to keep its list of candidates approved if one of its members dismisses the candidates on the list. The criterion for transparency is to oblige each list to open a bank account on which expenditures are made. The oversight role of civil society institutions is agreed upon. As well as the commitment of the commissioners of the lists to disclose the sources of financing the electoral campaign (Proposals for a draft election law). This is a very small part of the modifications received. Undoubtedly, these amendments contributed to strengthening the role of women and supported it after they had gained over the past years the experience and ability to participate and engage in parliamentary and political life. Women were actively involved even if this was not fully supported. Consequently, these amendments gave young people the opportunity to participate more in political life. They contributed to the attempt to conduct fair and fair elections and supported the parties and their goals (Al-Shakhanbeh, 2018).

This will also enhance the Jordanian national identity and maintain a cohesive civil society in all its categories. This law established the principle of the rule of law and its activation in the various electoral stages.

The Position of Jordanian Politicians on The Recent Amendments

The points of view differed within the House of Representatives among members on the recent constitutional amendments. These opinions resulted in a quarrel among them within the Council between

supporters and opponents in an inappropriate manner and with inappropriate words. They decided to return to discuss it again at the beginning of this year. The deputies discussed legislation related to the political system, constitutional amendments, electoral laws, and parties that were approved in an attempt to reform the difficult conditions that the country is going through. Some politicians openly and clearly objected to these amendments, especially the amendment represented by adding the term: "Jordanian women" to one of the chapter titles. The Muslim Brotherhood considered this amendment to change the religious identity in the country and they opposed and attacked the amendment. Then they held several meetings and conferences to support their opposition trying to protect the religious identity, which is considered a subject to obliterate or change.

The representatives' opinions (the Brotherhood) within the parliament was that there was a conspiracy against the identity of the country. Its goal is to implement CEDAW through constitutional amendments issued by the Royal Commission. In addition to the opposition of the Muslim Brotherhood, the Jordanian right-wing and conservatives also opposed the constitutional amendments as part of the conspiracy of naturalization and the alternative homeland. This word that will be added to the Constitution is considered an attack on the Constitution. The amendment is intended for improvement and political reform. The formulation of this reform was carried out with the participation of a group of political forces. However, it was subjected to a major and violent attack by some political forces and an elite of civil society. It has been refused adoption or defense by them. By analyzing all the forces of the opposition groups, it is discovered that there is consensus on one point of view on different goals. All opponents see the output as a part of a conspiracy against the Jordanian national identity. As for civil society, it was skeptical and apprehensive about these amendments. The stories increase their fear and anxiety about that. All of that required confronting those narratives and events by presenting the outputs of the Royal Committee and explaining them to the community. These outputs could approximate its idea more clearly and emphasize the objectives for which the project was approved.

The Role of Modernizing the Political System in Enhancing The Role Of Women

It became clear and explicit that the recent amendments to the political system enhance the role of women in political life and in their society as a whole. This does not lie in some texts or specific aspects only, but in talking about them as aspects (Al-Raba, 2003). This is to support her right and her participation in the endless community and political life. Women have suffered before and until now. But to a much lesser extent and according to the developments, the continuous support is existed for them all the time. This is due to the lack of confidence in women in the political field although they have proven their worth in this matter for many years. There are cultural factors that play a major role in varying degrees of political representation of women from one place to another. In Europe, for example, the situation is completely different from that in Jordan. It is sometimes governed by customs and traditions that call for reducing women's political participation and trying not to make them decision-makers (Khawaldeh, 2018). Of course, this support increased for women to participate in various sectors. Her role, position, and ability represent an active part of society. Jordanian women participated in political and legislative life as well as the participation of women in the public sphere, including political development and empowerment and activating their role. In addition, the Jordanian constitution enshrines the rules of equality between women and men. It allowed her to hold positions and participate in political life and parties. It gave her the right to run for office and be elected to the House of Representatives and municipal councils as well. The amendments placed women in decision-making positions and expanded their political and party participation. There is a political and economic environment in which women can participate. They have the right to convey their voice fairly, as they are active. They are considered influential citizens in various issues (Al-Naimat, 2021).

This law asked the various institutions and departments to advocate for women's rights and status. It also denoted to the role that she can play a positive role trying to achieve justice between her and the man. In addition, women were allowed to review and amend all legislation that discriminates against women following a participatory approach that ensures the active participation of all stakeholders concerned with women. It is clear from the aforementioned that the recent amendments guarantee the achievement of justice and equality between the sexes and the affirmation of the status and importance of women, which is no less than that of men in society.

Most of these amendments expanded the role of women to bring it closer to the role of men in various fields. This law gave women the right to search for everything that makes them feel distinguished in legislation and texts, to be amended to make it more equitable to them. Despite the opposition of some to this, the real goal will appear after the application of the amendments. Women will acquire the rights assigned to them and play their political role as the law allows them to prove that they can do what men do in terms of development, provision of services, benefit to society, and the country in general. Undoubtedly, the participation of women in

political life is one of the most important conditions for implementing democracy, which is one of the most important foundations of equality and giving the opportunity to all without any difference between them.

Conclusion

The Royal Commission found a major change in various fields, especially the political field. Despite the opposition of some to the various texts and amendments thereto, they will prove their preference and contribution to develop the situation and resolve some crises even if gradually. It brought Jordan to the stage of stability. In recent years, the country has gone through crises that were difficult for everyone to overcome, yet these attempts did not stop. Amendments were made in various fields, particularly the political system, the electoral laws, and political parties. These amendments attempt to achieve the parties' goals and enhance their participation. As well as, they achieve fair parliamentary elections by ensuring the participation of all segments of society in both matters. The amendments called for equality between men and women, proving their role and status. They aimed at broadening of youth participation in political life from different governorates without discriminating between them. They were concerned with achieving the most important standards that witnessed corruption recently such as achieving justice, integrity, and transparency, especially in the parliamentary elections.

Results

1. In recent years, Jordanian society has faced obstacles and crises that necessitated the amendment of legal legislation in Jordan. New laws were enacted to organize the political, economic and other sectors in order to organize matters and formulate them. They reduce the difficulties that stand in the way of Jordan's development and improve its conditions.
2. The amendments aim at reforming the political and democratic reforms in Jordan. They work to enhance the participation of all segments of society in various sectors. The most important of them is the political sector. It facilitated their participation in it, supported their position, and opened up more space for them to participate in political life.
3. The new constitutional amendments regulated the electoral laws and political parties. The first was organized to become an electoral process. It is characterized by transparency and integrity. The opportunities and participation are distributed equitably among all segments of society focusing on the role of women in it. It has enhanced participation in and formation of political parties and increased opportunities for citizens of all groups in different governorates until participation included individuals with disabilities.
4. Legislation concerned the various segments of society and equalized them and did not differentiate between anyone. It strengthened their participation politically and economically. It took care of their presence in the House of Representatives and political parties to share opinions and viewpoints in order to contribute in the field of cooperation to develop the Jordanian society.
5. The constitutional amendments focused on women and increased the chances of their political participation. It imposed the necessity of fairness between her and men in society. It acknowledged the importance of its role and position at various levels.
6. The Jordanian people and politicians met the other amendments by rejecting them by attacking them through contradictory statements and behaviors. There are those who accept these amendments and encourage their support and understanding through holding seminars and lectures that achieve this.

Recommendations

This research recommends the following:

1. Continuous research into the gaps in legislation and the amendments received to fill those gaps and address problems before they escalate.
2. The importance of the government's role in communicating the amendments to the civil society in the correct manner and in a manner that shows the importance of these amendments and the issues they address.
3. Continuing to enhance the role of women and not limiting some seats and responsibilities to men only.
4. Confront opponents and opponents of the new amendments by removing doubts about the allegations they claim.

5. Continuous interest in various fields, especially the political and economic. It is due to the extension of their influence on all of society.
6. Increasing political awareness and education in schools and universities, besides holding seminars, lectures, and discussions in various educational centers and institutions.

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