The role played by political, accountability, regulatory quality and the rule of law in public governance: Evidence from Iraq

Toman Alkhafagy

College of media/ the islamic university in Najaf/ Iraq
Email: toman.alkhafagy@gmail.com

Hasan Fadhil lafta

Mazaya university college Iraq
Email: Fadelhassan04@gmail.com

Rasha Abed Hussein

Al-Manara College For Medical Sciences/Misan/Iraq
Email: rashaabed@uomanara.edu.iq

Ahmed Fadhil Farhan

Technical Engineering College, Al-Ayen University, Thi-Qar, Iraq
Email: ahmed.fadhil@alayen.adu.iq

Rand Mothana Ferhad

Department of pharmacy/ Ashur University College/Baghdad/ Iraq

Aalaa Yaseen Hassan

Al-Nisour University College/ Baghdad/ Iraq. Email: alaa.y.english@nuc.edu.iq

Akram Ali Anber

Al-Esraa University College, Baghdad, Iraq. Email: dr.akram@esraa.edu.iq

Ressin Kaze Baher

College of technical engineering/ National University of Science and Technology, Dhi Qar, Iraq
Email: Reasin555@gmail.com

Ammar Dameem Nsaif

Al-Hadi University College, Baghdad, 10011, Iraq.

Abstract

The present study explores the impact of political, accountability, and regulatory quality on public governance. The data for this research was collected from the years 2000 to 2021, enabling a comprehensive analysis of voice and accountability (VA), political stability and absence of violence (PSA) and regulatory quality (RQ), and the rule of law (RL) in Iraq's public governance (PG) over time. This study employed two estimation techniques, namely OLS and FMOLS, to examine the relationship between variables. As per the OLS and FMOLS estimation, while PSA and RL negatively influence PG, their associations are deemed insignificant due to p-values exceeding 0.05. On the other hand, RQ is found to have a positive impact on PG but lacks statistical evidence to support the association. Similarly, VA is negatively associated with PG but with an insignificant impact based on the p-values. Diagnostic tests confirmed the absence of heteroskedasticity and serial correlation in the model. The study concludes by highlighting the implications of the findings and offers areas for further research. Keywords: Public Governance, Accountability, Political stability, Regulatory quality, Iraq

1. Introduction

The public sector is being restructured and reorganized, its connections with the public and the private profit-making and charitable organization sectors are changing, and there is a substantial effect from new and arising governance concepts on the creation, provision, and evaluation of public regulations, rules, and programs (Torfing et al., 2020). The governance of a company is the procedure used for the development, execution, and maintain policies and regulations. If organizations and those in positions of power are to rule properly, they have to possess an awareness of accountability and a way of executing mechanisms for oversight (Donohue, 2022). At certain levels, the rule of law, accountability, and transparency are complex and constitutional problems, but they are also connected to create a public sector that is powerful, accessible, and worthy of participating positively in the democratic process, along with a governing structure that is valid, efficient, and embraced by the public. The efficacy of a country's governance and public facilities has a critical impact on both the well-being of its citizens and the health of its financial system. Successful public agencies satisfy the needs of people as well as companies. Governmental

organisation must be able to change with the times (European Commission, n.d.). Public governance is a broad field of study that concentrates on the authoritative relationships among government agencies, the private sector, and the economy as they relate to shifts in political groups' capacities to govern themselves adequately and legally. These connections can take different forms, including authority connections, influencing connections, persuasion interactions, coercion links, and manipulative relationships.

Western governments and their public governance are built on the basic concept of the rule of law. The concept of limiting political power is its fundamental value. In the majority of situations where public powers are exercised in the EU and its member states, the rule of law premise serves as an interpretive idea, with the judiciary exercising oversight over the operations of administrative authorities (Janderová, 2019). Iraq is going through a confidence problem. The economy of Iraq has been in a fast fall for the past year, which has recently led to a resolution to decrease the value of its national currency, the dinar, by twenty-three percent (Levkowitz, 2021; Levkowitz & Kalian, 2021). In recent years, the idea of efficient public governance has become increasingly important in determining the stability, growth, and prosperity of countries all over the world. The success of the intricate governance system depends on a number of important factors, including political dynamics, accountability systems, regulatory effectiveness, and the rule of law. Iraq makes an intriguing example to look at how these essential components interact in a complicated governance context because of its history of political instability and institutional problems. The aim of this study is to examine and evaluate how political dynamics, accountability mechanisms, regulatory quality, and the rule of law influence public governance in Iraq. The objectives of this study are:

1. To assess the impact of political factors on the development and implementation of public policies in Iraq

2. To assess the impact of accountability mechanisms within the context of public governance in Iraq.

3. To examine the impact of regulatory quality within the context of public governance in Iraq.

4.   To analyze the impact of the rule of law in adherence to legal norms within Iraq's public governance.

The study's findings can provide policymakers and lawmakers in Iraq with critical knowledge regarding the governance system's benefits and drawbacks. In order to create successful policies and reforms that improve governance effectiveness, promote transparency, and support sustainable development, it is important for policymakers to comprehend the effects of political dynamics, accountability measures, regulatory quality, and the rule of law. The study can add to the body of knowledge on governance research by offering an in-depth look at the major variables affecting public governance in Iraq.

2. Literature Review

2.1.   Theoretical Background

Good governance plays a considerable role in modifying public administration, thus enhancing the dealings with public services (Dhaoui, 2022). The conceptual framework of this research is based on improving the public governance of the countries to ensure their well-being. Public governance could be enhanced by considering political and regulatory quality, the rule of law, and accountability, supported by the *"modernization theory"* by Lipset (1959), which plays a vital role in strengthening the public through modern education, enabling them to engage with government institutions. After all, it has been observed that the political character of an uneducated man is quite different from an educated person (Ezcurra & Zuazu, 2022). According to the *modernization theory*, education significantly contributes toward good governance. This theory could be correlated to this research because it highlights the importance of political quality for enhancing governance and governmental quality. Furthermore, if individuals are highly educated, they can accept their behavioral adaptations, and this accountability of the administrators will significantly enhance public governance, which is the aim of the current research.
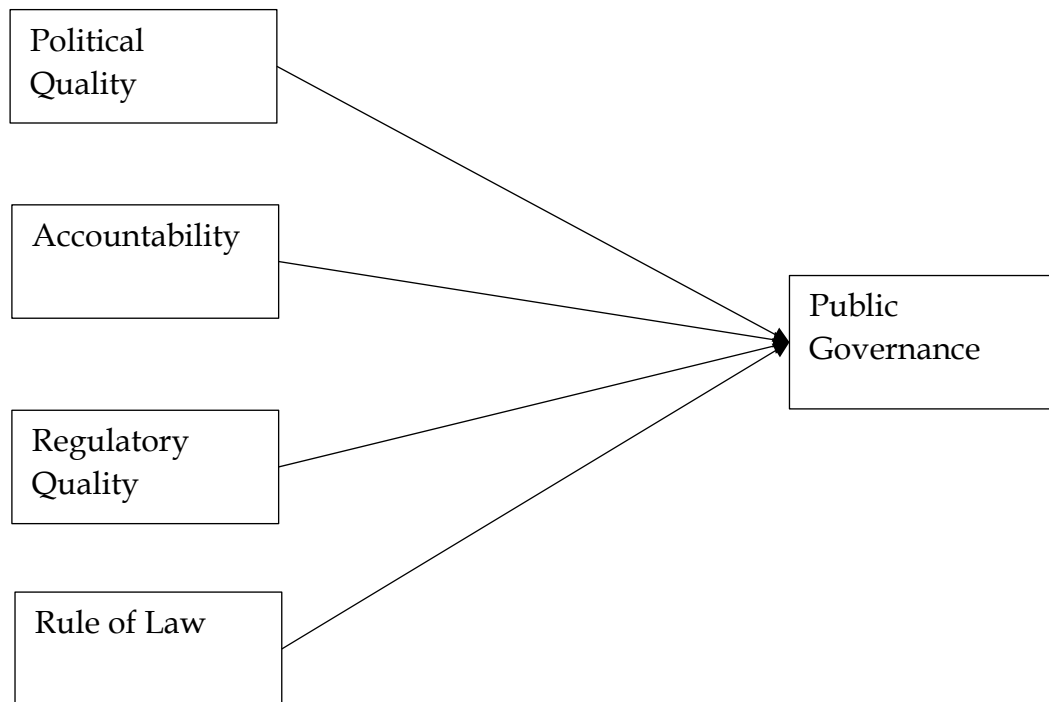
Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework

2.2. Political Quality and Public Governance

Political quality refers to the stability of the political conditions of any particular country. Some previous research has elaborated that the quality of a government is highly necessary for the economic development and growth of the country (Acemoglu, Johnson, & Robinson, 2002; Rodrik, Subramanian, & Trebbi, 2004). Additionally, it has been observed that the quality of government is a crucial aspect because it promotes the required economic factors within an administration and provides good governance, which eventually promotes a secure exchange structure, thus resulting in enhancing foreign direct investments, equal distribution of labor, and devise the economic policies which are significantly related to the reduction of poverty and economic development of the country (Bolen & Williamson, 2019; Quibria, 2006). In previous years, the government has become integral to enhancing public governance to establish a better international image, which will be useful for receiving international aid when needed (Dijkstra, 2018). This highlights the importance of political quality in enhancing public governance within the country and ensuring economic development.

Additionally, when the political quality within a country is better as compared to other countries, it will be an ultimatum for enhancing public governance, and good

governance is the aspect that ensures good quality of life within the administration (Bjørnskov, Dreher, & Fischer, 2010; Helliwell et al., 2018), i.e., better is the political quality better is the governance which results in better life quality also termed as outcomes of good governance within a public administration. The decline in political quality also declines governance performance and economic performance, which can be illustrated in Figure 2.1, which explains the decline in economy and governance due to the decline in political quality.
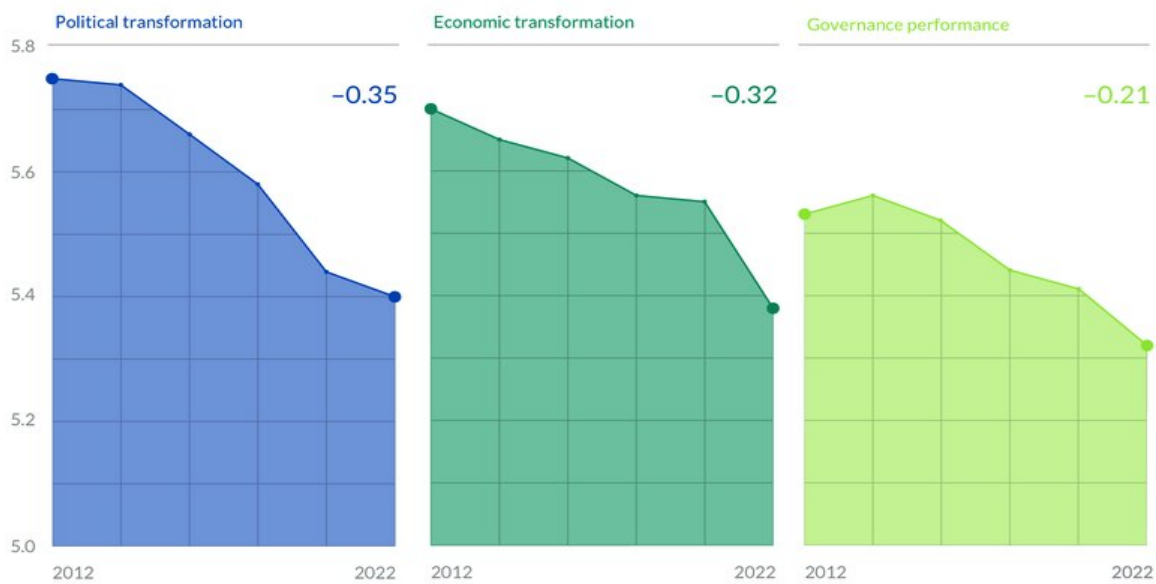

Figure 2.1: Effects of political transformation on economic growth and governance
(BTI Transformation Index, 2022)

Therefore, Iraq's political quality should be maintained to achieve good public governance and better government quality which will also enhance foreign direct investment, significantly resulting in economic development.

H1: *Political quality significantly and positively influences public governance.*

2.3.   Accountability and Public Governance

Within a public and democratic administration, accountability is the key construct to enhance public governance. Recent research has elaborated that accountability is the factor where everyone within a public administration is responsible for his act and behavior (Keping, 2018). Moreover, these behaviors and attitudes within a public administration refer to the responsibilities of a person

regarding his position and the institution they are working in, which means that the administrators are answerable for the duties thus assigned to them concerning their departments and must be fulfilled by them. Therefore, this study has considered accountability a useful measure to enhance public governance in Iraq. Moreover, accountability positively influences a country's political and social life by eradicating feelings of self-denial (Jan, 2020). Additionally, the importance of accountability could also be understood by the accountability sections thus formulated by the government of the Philippines in their constitution of 1987 for public officers (as shown in Table 2.1).

Table 2.1: Sections of the 1987 Constitution in the Philippines for public officers

Accountability Sections	
Section 1	Section 1 portrays that public officers are trustworthy and should always be accountable to the public while working on the perceptions of justice, patriotism, loyalty, and integrity.
Section 2	All public officers and administrative employees, including presidents, vice presidents, supreme court members, etc., will be removed if accused of breaking public trust or any other crime.

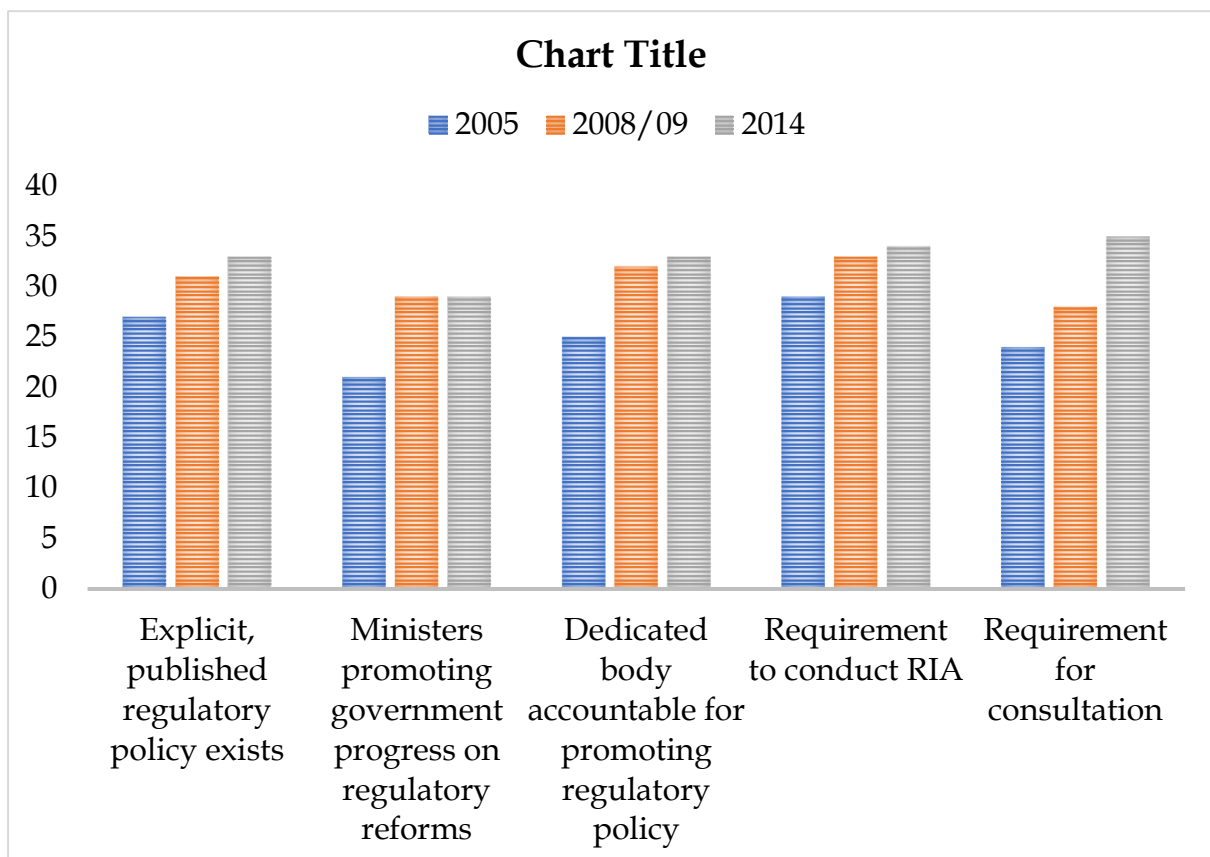**Source:** (Republic of the Philippines, 2023)

Accountability has solid cultural associations, which could by ensuring enhanced legitimacy, but still, the social setting is a crucial feature that impacts accountability within public administrations (Lyrio, Lunkes, & Taliani, 2018). In addition, accountability is the term adapted to situations and consequences according to which it is to be utilized. Hence, the above-cited literature provides evidence of the importance of accountability in enhancing public governance, which clarifies the study's purpose.

H2: *Accountability significantly and positively impacts public governance.*

2.4.   Regulatory Quality and in Public Governance

Regulatory quality refers to the processes and policies that the government of a particular country has formulated to achieve economic growth by enhancing public

governance. It has been observed that the economic growth of a country is highly dependent on its regulatory policies, and the economic development of a country is influenced by the efficiency of the public authorities, which focuses on the regulatory models regarding the public administrations and also relate them to achieve high levels of public governance (Kosach et al., 2022). In addition, the effectiveness of regulatory policy positively affects public governance within a public administration. Therefore, the current research has highlighted the importance of regulatory quality, where the regulatory processes should be transformative according to the situation's requirements to achieve good public governance. The importance of regulatory quality could be understood by the regulatory transformation of the OECD countries, which are thought to be moving toward enhancing their regulatory quality and are now committed to their regulatory quality (as shown in Graph 2.1).

Chart Title

■ 2005   ■ 2008/09   ■ 2014

Graph 2.1: Adoption of government policy for regulatory quality (Kauffmann & Malyshev, 2016)

In addition, the regulatory policy is the biggest part of the public governance framework within OECD countries. Moreover, an effective regulatory policy depends

on the aspects that enhance public governance within the countries (Varley, 2023). Research on the reforms of OECD countries to enhance their governance in the presence of regulatory quality are as follows:

- Policy should be designed based on solid research and analysis.

- A particular person within a particular institute should be responsible for transformation within the policy according to the requirements.

- Institutions should be prioritized for implementing and supporting regulatory reforms.

To summarize, Iraq must regulate its processes and policies according to the requirement of this modern era because it will enhance not only the regulatory quality of the country but also the public governance, which will be an ultimatum to deal with political instability and the decline in economic growth effectively.

H3: *Regulatory quality significantly and positively influences public governance.*

2.5. Rule of Law and Public Governance

The rule of law is the key principle for achieving public governance. According to research, because of the rule of law in miscellaneous countries, there has been an environment of equilibrium among the people living within the country, and they are bound to follow a particular legal norm without any restrictions. In addition, the country is strictly restricted in following the legal rules and regulations by ensuring that the law has not been enforced (Janderová, 2019). Moreover, this equity and equilibrium among the people living within a country provide a source of good governance, ultimately enhancing public governance within the country. However, the present study has been undertaken to highlight the importance of the rule of law and its necessity to enhance public governance in Iraq.

In addition, it is mandatory that the rule of law should avoid any racial or cultural discrimination and comprise criminal justice and societal justice if it is meant to achieve a crime-free state, good public governance, and economic growth of the country. The following components should be considered while designing the rule of law to enhance public governance (as described in Figure 2.2).

Constraints of government powers.	The rule should be free of corruption.	Open Government
The public should be provided with fundamental rights.	Everything should follow the order and be secure.	No enforcement should be implemented for applying the rule of law.
The public should be provided with justice.	Despite public justice, there should be clauses for criminal justice also.	Informal justice

Figure 2.2: Dimensions of the rule of law necessary for enhancing public governance

(The Lawyers & Jurists, 2023)

This highlights the importance and necessity of the rule of law within a public administration by providing the dimensions that could be considered while formulating the rule of law for the country. In addition, it also provides evidence for the conceptual framework of the current research that proposes that the rule of law is the key construct for attaining good public governance. To conclude, the government of Iraq should formulate and modify its rules of law because these rules should provide both civil and criminal justice devoid of the fact that they are not implemented forcefully, if and only if they want to attain a high level of public governance.

H4: *The rule of law significantly and positively affects public governance.*

3. Research Methodology

The present research aims to study the public governance of Iraq. For this purpose, different factors such as political, accountability or regulatory quality and the rule of law have been studied as explanatory variables. To fulfil the research objective in the present study, the quantitative research design has been incorporated based on the "secondary time series data" that has been gathered from various credible and authentic sources. The major benefit of applying "secondary research" in a study is its capacity to enhance the probability of the result's adequacy. As the data gathered through published sources or attained from

published reports of concerned organizations is free from the chances of error. This type of data is reviewed and undergone examination multiple times, due to which the result's accuracy is ensured. In the present study, the time series data has been collected from 2000 to 2021. The rationale behind collecting data within this period was to closely examine the changes regarding accountability, political and regulatory quality along with the rule of law in the public governance of Iraq. When data from past years is reviewed and examined till recent years, the researchers are capable of closely and adequately assessing the gradual fluctuation, improvement and changes within the context of variables in the given period.

3.1. Route for data collection

This research has also selected a suitable procedure for data collection to assess the impact of the role played by accountability, regulatory quality and political factors along with the rule of law to assess the public governance in Iraq. In the present research, different sources have been used by the researcher for data collection. World development indicators (WDI) and worldwide governance indicators (WGI) have been accessed to collect the required data. According to Thomas (2010), worldwide governance indicators (WGI) is a platform that reports both individual and aggregate governance indicators for different countries (almost 200) and territories from 1996 to 2021. It entails six dimensions of governance containing accountability, voice, political stability and other factors etc. The other source accessed for data collection was WDI which enables the users to find data regarding all developmental aspects including the current and historical, and to track and monitor progress related to specific goals and targets (Swanson, 2006). Table 1 shows the variables of this study, their abbreviations and sources.

Variable names	Abbreviations	Sources for measurement
Accountability	ACC	WDI, WGI
Regulatory Quality	RQ	WDI, WGI
Political factors	PF	WDI, WGI
Rule of Law	RL	WDI, WGI
Public Governance	PG	WDI, WGI

3.2. Econometric Model

To analyze the collected time series data the ordinary least square has been implemented to analyze the collected time series data for this research. OLS is a "linear

regression" technique that is used for identifying the unknown parameters of the model (Baltagi & Baltagi, 2008; William, 2018; Yaffee, 2003). OLS is considered an effective technique for assessing a small size therefore 22 years selected for this research makes OLS the suitable technique for assessing the impact of the role played by accountability, regulatory quality and political factors along with the rule of law to assess the public governance in Iraq. Therefore to study the present research association, the following econometric model can be considered:

$$GPG_{it} = \alpha + \beta_1 ACC_{it} + \beta RQ_{it} + \beta_3 POL_{it} + \beta_4 RL_{it} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

In this model, "α is the constant", and β represents the "variable's coefficient," while "ε is the error term".

3.3. Data Analysis Techniques

Different data analysis techniques have been implemented to conduct this research.

3.3.1. Unit Root Test

The unit root test was applied to assess the stationarity properties of variables. This test assesses the order integration depicted by the variables as explained by Phillips and Perron (1988).

3.3.2. Co-integration Analysis

This test has been implemented to examine the relationship among the variables of research (Camba Jr & Camba, 2021). For this purpose, different techniques such as "dynamic ordinary least square DOLS and fully modified ordinary least square estimators FMOLS" has been used.

3.3.3. Diagnostic tests

After applying the above tests, diagnostic techniques have been implemented to determine the efficiency and efficacy of predictors. For this purpose, the robustness of estimators has been assessed by implementing a GMM estimation whereas the "normality of error terms" has been confirmed by the "Jarque-Bera-Test". Similarly, the presence of homoscedasticity will be identified by the "Heteroscedasticity test ARCH" and the "RAMSEY RESET TEST" that has been applied to assess the

predictor's specifications (Addey, 2019). The test of CUSUM and CUSUMSQ will be implemented for assessing the stability of estimates.

4. Empirical Findings

The first step of the analysis involves reviewing the descriptive statistics presented in Table 1. The normality of the data is assessed using skewness, kurtosis and JB test values. PG has negative skewness with a kurtosis value of 4.8. With a JB value of 62.1 and p-value of 0.04, PG is not normally distributed. On the other hand, PSA follows normal distribution as the p-value of the JB test exceeds 0.05. Similarly, RL also follows a normal distribution with a p-value of 0.40. However, RQ and VA follow a non-normal distribution with p-values below 0.05. Additionally, RQ and VA are negatively skewed.

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of the Variables

	PG	PSA	RL	RQ	VA
Mean	59.11966	-2.343874	-1.668320	-1.279733	-1.214927
Median	58.61990	-2.393245	-1.707237	-1.133843	-1.076181
Maximum	75.22227	-1.601287	-1.393394	-0.979119	-0.962966
Minimum	25.37919	-3.180352	-1.838028	-2.170417	-2.050344
Std. Dev.	11.48792	0.380009	0.126101	0.325468	0.322330
Skewness	-0.971837	0.024233	0.645687	-1.512073	-1.683891
Kurtosis	4.823979	2.879531	2.349700	4.433825	4.634175
Jarque-Bera (JB)	6.216675	0.014754	1.829218	9.801144	12.26093
Probability	0.044675	0.992650	0.400673	0.007442	0.002176
Sum	1241.513	-49.22135	-35.03473	-26.87439	-25.51346
Sum Sq. Dev.	2639.445	2.888144	0.318029	2.118584	2.077937
Observations	21	21	21	21	21

This study employs various econometric tests, such as Im, Pesaran, and Shin W-test, Fisher type tests, and Levin, Lin, and Chu test, to examine the presence of a unit root in the dataset. A time series that is not stationary possesses a unit root. In these tests, the null hypothesis assumes the existence of a unit root. The results of the unit root tests are presented in Table 2. By using appropriate techniques, the study determines that all the indicators used to investigate the impact on public awareness are stationary at the level and first difference.

Table 2: Unit Root Test

Method	At Level		At first difference
	Statistic	Prob.**	Statistic Prob.**
Null: Unit root (assumes common unit root process)			
Levin, Lin & Chu t*	-4.30699	0.0000	-9.33064 0.0000
Null: Unit root (assumes individual unit root process)			
Im, Pesaran and Shin W-stat	-3.99069	0.0000	-8.03987 0.0000
ADF - Fisher Chi-square	33.3207	0.0002	67.5417 0.0000
PP - Fisher Chi-square	42.6200	0.0000	73.3525 0.0000

In the present study, two estimation techniques are employed: OLS and FMOLS. Table 3 presents the results for OLS estimation, while Table 4 displays the FMOLS results. As the OLS estimation demonstrates, PSA has a negative impact on PG with a β coefficient of -4.28. However, the p-value obtained is 0.43 in the table, suggesting that the association between PSA and PG is insignificant and the first hypothesis was not accepted. The study evaluated the impact of VA on PG, and the findings showed a negative association with a β coefficient of -6.57 and with a p-value greater than 0.05; the association between VA and PG is insignificant. While RQ is found to have a positive impact on PG, there is no evidence to support the hypothesis as the p-value exceeds 0.05. Lastly, RL also has a negative influence on PG with a β coefficient of -18.34. With a p-value of 0.39, RL does not have a significant influence on PG; thus, the fourth hypothesis could not be supported.

Table 3: Ordinary Least Squares

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
PSA	-4.278588	5.337697	-0.801579	0.4345
VA	-6.571673	25.79716	-0.254744	0.8022
RQ	27.26108	25.83798	1.055078	0.3071
RL	-18.34103	20.76024	-0.883469	0.3901
C	45.39526	29.29433	1.549626	0.1408
R-squared	0.559991	Mean dependent var		59.11966
Adjusted R-squared	0.449989	S.D. dependent var		11.48792
S.E. of regression	8.519753	Akaike info criterion		7.326909
Sum squared resid	1161.379	Schwarz criterion		7.575604
Log likelihood	-71.93254	Hannan-Quinn criter.		7.380882
F-statistic	5.090727	Durbin-Watson stat		1.949427
Prob(F-statistic)	0.007700	Wald F-statistic		7.100136
Prob(Wald F-statistic)	0.001739			

The results of FMOLS are shown in Table 4. Similar to OLS estimates, PSA has a negative influence on PG. However, the impact is insignificant. While RL is negatively influencing PG, similar to the OLS estimation, Table 4 shows that with a p-value of 0.419, RL has an insignificant impact on PG. VA also has an insignificant association with PG; therefore, the second hypothesis could not be supported. Similarly, RQ is found to positively influence PG, but the presumed association could not be supported due to p-value exceeding 0.05.

Table 4: FMOLS

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
PSA	-2.840001	5.490264	-0.517280	0.6125
VA	-5.723762	16.50696	-0.346748	0.7336
RQ	27.48040	16.99760	1.616723	0.1268
RL	-15.15282	18.25460	-0.830082	0.4195
C	55.87600	27.06157	2.064773	0.0567
R-squared	0.231998	Mean dependent var		60.80668
Adjusted R-squared	0.027198	S.D. dependent var		8.718115
S.E. of regression	8.598740	Sum squared resid		1109.075
Long-run variance	40.71031			

The plot for residuals is utilized to assess the normality of the errors, demonstrated in Figure 1. Normality of the errors is assessed by the shape of the histogram, the JB test and the probability value. The histogram displays a bell-shaped curve, suggesting a normal distribution. A low JB test statistic further validates normality with a probability of 0.921
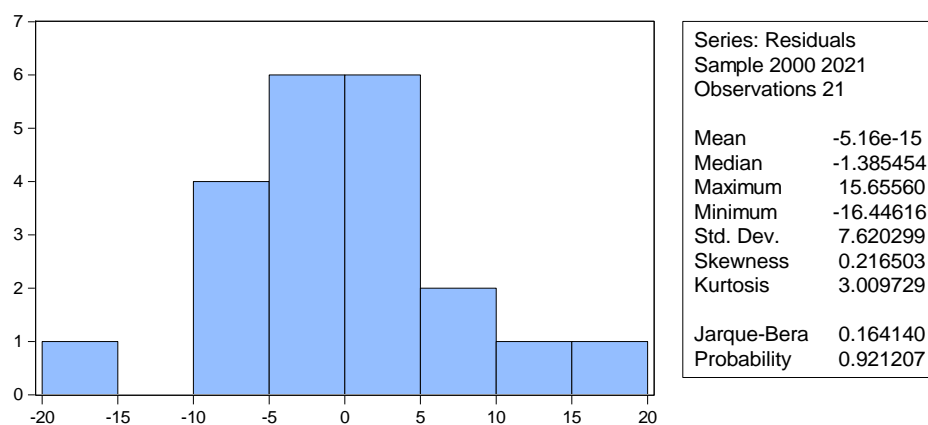

Figure 1: Regression Standardization Residuals

To test for serial correlation, the Breusch-Godfrey serial correlation LM Test is utilized, checking for the presence of autocorrelation in the errors of the model. Autocorrelation occurs when the residuals exhibit some pattern of correlation with their own lagged values. In this test, the null hypothesis assumes that there is no autocorrelation in the residuals, while the alternative hypothesis suggests that autocorrelation is present. The F-statistics and Chi-Square are reported in Table 5. As the p-values resulting from the Statistic-F and Chi-Square tests are greater than the significance level of 5%, it means that the test fails to reject the null hypothesis. Therefore, it can be deduced that the model is devoid of any issue of autocorrelation.

Table 5: Breusch-Godfrey Serial Correlation LM Test

F-statistic	0.151388	Prob. F(2,14)	0.8609
Obs*R-squared	0.444549	Prob. Chi-Square(2)	0.8007

The ARCH test is utilised to test whether the residuals have constant variance. The test is assessed against the null hypothesis, stating that the errors of the model are homoscedastic, which indicates the same variances, while the alternate hypothesis implies different variances. At a significance level of 0.05, the probability of an F-statistic of 0.2312 is 0.7961 and the Obs*R-squared of 0.53389 yields a p-value of 0.7657. As a result, we do not reject the null hypothesis, indicating that the errors of the model are homoscedastic.

Table 6: Heteroskedasticity Test: ARCH

F-statistic	0.231299	Prob. F(2,16)	0.7961
Obs*R-squared	0.533899	Prob. Chi-Square(2)	0.7657

5. Discussion

Good governance is crucial in dealing with public administration and public services. Therefore, the regulations, laws, and policies in public governance hold sheer value in maintaining the governance infrastructure. As the primary aim of public governance is to ensure the well-being of citizens, the accountability and quality of the governance is significant in every aspect. The present study drew on the conceptual framework of public governance and analyzed the factors that impact the

respective performance. In recent years Iraq faced major governance issues in the form of public spending, public initiatives, and civilian progress. In the wake of challenges, contemporary research trends encompass the role of political and non-political factors in determining the quality and performance of public governance. The study employed two estimation techniques and analyzed the relationship between selected factors. According to the OLS and FMOLS results, the political factor and the rule of law negatively impact public governance in Iraq. However, the relationship between them is found insignificant. The regulatory quality is also found significant, but statistical evidence did not support the relationship.

Some studies support these results, as Vysochyna, Semenov, and Kyrychenko (2021) revealed that corruption, regulatory quality, accountability, and voice have no statistical importance in public governance. However, the variables were examined in association with management and innovation. Therefore, they cannot be aligned completely with the current study. The results of the study are also in contradiction with the previous studies. Sulistyaningsih et al. (2021) highlighted that public policy analysis is essential to evaluate institutional control and authority. The check on the authorities and management significantly improves the quality of public governance. Moreover, to strengthen the management and institutional arrangement between the central and local government, the policy checks from the upper government control and monitor the performance of public governance. It is also confirmed by Alqooti (2020) that accountability, planning, performance, and monitoring are essential elements of public governance. The presence of these factors decides the quality and growth of the public administrative sectors.

While analyzing the public management and public governance of developing countries, it is reported by Waheduzzaman (2019) accountability, transparency, and efficiency are prerequisites to good public administration and governance. It is also observed that the central government's regulatory interventions significantly impact the public sector's regulatory quality. Therefore, the impacts of regulatory quality cannot be studied in isolation. The importance of rule of law is also acknowledged by the previous researcher irrespective of our findings. The theoretical insights provided by Hussein, Jermsittiparsert, and Ahmad

(2019), emphasized on the rule of law as one of the significant factors impacting the process of governance at the public sectors. As the explanatory factors are examined in context of Iraq, the association between the factors were nullified due to the difference in governance structure. The governance policies, infrastructure and the country's administrative context therefore define the significance of these factors in association with the public governance.

5.1 Conclusion

The primary aim of this study is to examine the impact of PSA, VA, RL, and RQ on PG in Iraq. To efficiently fulfill the objectives and to draw a conclusion, a mode of secondary data collection has been utilized by the researcher. The data collection follows a time period from 2000 to 2021, and the collected data has been analyzed using FMLOS and OLS. On the basis of findings, it has been indicated that PSA, VA, and RL negatively and insignificantly impact PG. RQ indicated a positive impact on PG, however, this association is not supported following a lack of evidence. The outcomes of the study offer significant contributions to policy and lawmakers and expand the literature related to public governance in Iraq.

5.2 Implications of the Study

On the theoretical ground, this study expands the literature related to the impact of RL, RQ, and PGC within the context of Iraq. In this accordance, the impact of these determinants has been efficiently analyzed. The impact of determinants outlined by this study offers remarkable contributions for scholars and the public as the theoretical notions formulated by this study encourage them to understand the public governance situation within the context of Iraq. It is a common aspect that efficient conditions of public governance and the rule of law are associated with the efficient development of the country thus the inclusion of relevant aspects as per their significance, can be made part of theoretical models drawn by experts to analyze the developmental situation in a country within the context of public governance.

On practical grounds, this study offers significant contributions to lawmakers, policy-makers, and legislative authorities. The outcomes of the study highlighted the

impact of RL, RQ, AC, and PGC, which encourage the relevant personnel to enhance their implementation to smoothly enhance the development of the country. Moreover, legislative authorities also enhance the implementation of relevant policies to get better outcomes. In addition, as this study is based in the context of Iraq however, the outcomes of the study can be beneficial for policy-makers all across the globe.

5.3 Limitations and future research indications

This study offers significant outcomes related to the impact of RL, RQ, and PGC in the context of Iraq however, certain limitations have been observed in this study. On the first note, these limitations impacted the outcomes of the study in terms of efficiency, and on the second note, these limitations need further exploration of the topic by future researchers. These limitations are as follows:

➢ On the basis of the secondary data series, the data has been collected following a limited timeframe (from 2000 to 2021). On the basis of this limitation, the generated outcomes have threats related to their effectiveness.

➢ For analysis, FMLOS and OLS have been utilized by the researcher which observes a methodological limitation to this study as longer and shorter impacts can not be generated on the basis of these tools.

➢ Public governance has been examined with few determinants which restrict the wider picture of public governance.

➢ A contextual limitation has been observed as the data has been collected only from Iraq which impacts the generalizability of results.

On the basis of these limitations, future studies should consider the following aspects. A study related to the broader picture of public governance has been conducted by examining the impact of equity and inclusiveness, transparency, and responsiveness. Public governance in other locations has also been observed to compare the impact of selected determinants on public governance in Iraq and in other countries. Efficient tools of data analysis like ARDL should be used by subsequent studies to generate results in the shorter and longer run.

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