



Messages of Foreign Policies and Coverage of Election in Unstable Democracy

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Media of governments are vehicles of governmental messages. A medium of a government carries the government's foreign policy messages to other countries. A government's message on foreign policy passes through one of the government's media to reach a target in another country. A government's medium mediates between the government's message on foreign policy and the message's target in another country. Therefore, I used the term, *mediated policy*, to refer to those governmental media messages on foreign policy sent to Iraq during the election in 2010. I hypothesized that US Mediated Policy, Iranian Mediated Policy, and Saudi Mediated Policy are three latent constructs interacting in a structural model where they affect a fourth latent variable, Iraqi Independent Media. I ran a content analysis of international and domestic media coverage of the Iraqi election of 2010. I measured the saliences of two frames, former Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and former Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi. The analysis shows: (1) US foreign policy simultaneously deals with two opposing regional policies, Saudi and Iranian. (2) English represents a barrier to Iraqi independent media. (3) There are significant foreign policy messages carried by media of foreign governments to Iraq, which evidently affect Iraqi independent media.

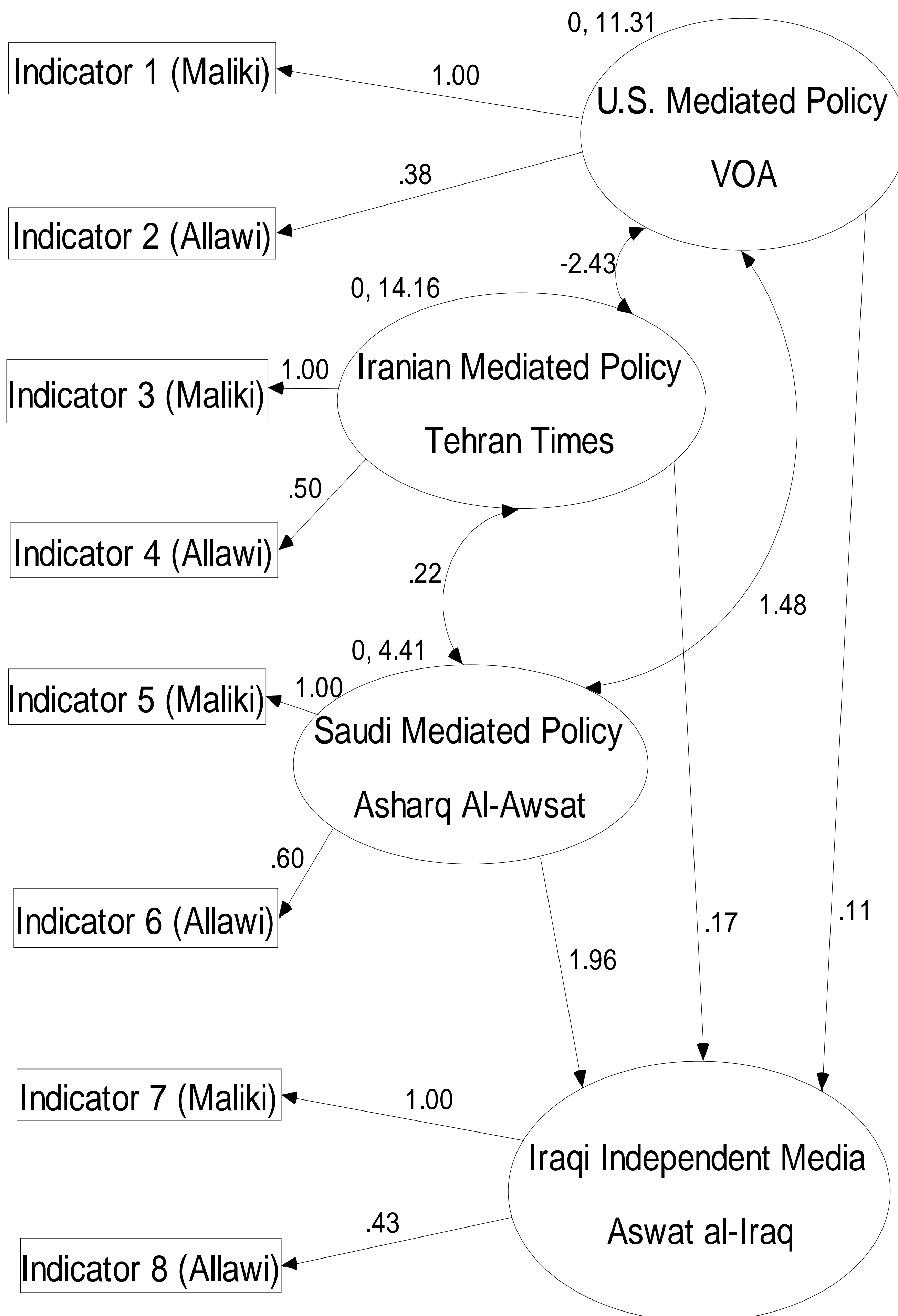


Table 4

Unstandardized Effect Estimates and Their Standard Errors in the Model Analyzed in the Current Study

Path	Estimate	SE	p
Variance			
U.S. Mediated Policy	11.31	4.97	.02
Iranian Mediated Policy	14.16	5.41	.009
Saudi Mediated Policy	4.41	1.65	.007
Covariance			
U.S. Mediated Policy ↔ Iranian Mediated Policy	-2.43	1.3	.047
U.S. Mediated Policy ↔ Saudi Mediated Policy	1.48	.9	.086
Iranian Mediated Policy ↔ Saudi Mediated Policy	.22	1.04	.8
Effects			
U.S. Mediated Policy → Iraqi Independent Media	.11	.21	.6
Iranian Mediated Policy → Iraqi Independent Media	.17	.18	.36
Saudi Mediated Policy → Iraqi Independent Media	1.96	.5	.000

Table 3

Unstandardized Measurement Coefficients and Their Standard Errors in the Model Analyzed in the Current Study

Path	Estimate	SE	P
U.S. Mediated Policy → Indicator 1 (Maliki in VOA)	1		
U.S. Mediated Policy → Indicator 2 (Allawi in VOA)	.38	.16	.02
Iranian Mediated Policy → Indicator 3 (Maliki in Tehran Times)	1		
Iranian Mediated Policy → Indicator 4 (Allawi in Tehran Times)	.5	.18	.005
Saudi Mediated Policy → Indicator 5 (Maliki in Asharq Al-Awsat)	1		
Saudi Mediated Policy → Indicator 6 (Allawi in Asharq Al-Awsat)	.6	.22	.005
Iraqi Independent Media → Indicator 7 (Maliki in Aswat al-Iraq)	1		
Iraqi Independent Media → Indicator 8 (Allawi in Aswat al-Iraq)	.43	.15	.006

Table 2

Correlation Estimates of Pearson's r between the Eight Observed Indicators Analyzed in the Current Research

Indicator	Indicator 1	Indicator 2	Indicator 3	Indicator 4	Indicator 5	Indicator 6	Indicator 7	Indicator 8
Indicator 1	1							
Indicator 2	.57**	1						
Indicator 3	-.15	-.1	1					
Indicator 4	-.15	-.09	.69**	1				
Indicator 5	.14	.08	.05	.006	1			
Indicator 6	.07	.06	-.03	-.015	.28**	1		
Indicator 7	.19*	.08	.14	.1	.37**	.1	1	
Indicator 8	.04	.09	.001	.01	.27**	.4**	.23**	1

* p < .05

** p < .01