

Environmental and Colonial Dynamics: Turkey's Invasion of Kurdistan of Iraq in 21st-Century Postcolonial Literature

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Abstract

This study examines the intersection of climate change and colonialism through the lens of Turkey's military intervention in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. It explores how environmental degradation, historical injustices, and geopolitical conflicts intertwine in shaping socio-ecological dynamics in the region. The analysis focuses on Turkey's colonial narratives, environmental impacts of military actions, and literary representations from Kurdish authors documenting displacement and ecological vulnerabilities. Drawing on postcolonial literature and environmental justice frameworks, the study highlights Kurdish resilience, community-led adaptation strategies, and calls for global solidarity in addressing environmental injustices. By synthesizing empirical data with theoretical insights, this research contributes to broader discussions on climate justice, sustainable development, and the implications of colonial interventions on local environments and communities.

Keywords: Climate change, Colonialism, environmental degradation, environmental justice, geopolitical conflicts, Kurdish resilience

المخلص

تستقصي هذه الدراسة التقاطع بين تغير المناخ والاستعمار من خلال دراسة التدخل العسكري التركي في إقليم كردستان العراق. وتحلل كيف تتداخل عوامل التدهور البيئي والظلم التاريخي والصراعات الجيوسياسية في تشكيل الديناميات الاجتماعية والبيئية في المنطقة. يركز التحليل على السرديات الاستعمارية التي تتبناها تركيا، والتأثيرات البيئية الناتجة عن العمليات العسكرية، والتمثيلات الأدبية التي قدمها الكتاب الأكراد، والتي توثق التهجير والهشاشة البيئية. ومن خلال الاعتماد على الأدبيات ما بعد الاستعمار وأطر العدالة البيئية، تسلط الدراسة الضوء على مرونة المجتمع الكردي، واستراتيجيات التكيف بقيادة المجتمع المحلي، والدعوات إلى التضامن العالمي في مواجهة الظلم البيئي. ودمج البيانات التجريبية مع الرؤى النظرية، تساهم هذه الدراسة في تعزيز النقاشات الأوسع حول العدالة المناخية، والتنمية المستدامة، وتأثير التدخلات الاستعمارية على البيئات والمجتمعات المحلية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: تغير المناخ، الاستعمار، التدهور البيئي، العدالة البيئية، الصراعات الجيوسياسية، مرونة المجتمع الكردي.

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Introduction

The 21st century has witnessed a complex interplay between environmental degradation, colonial legacies, and geopolitical conflicts, exemplified notably by Turkey's military interventions in Kurdistan of Iraq (Khan & Yılmaz, 2023). This region, historically fraught with territorial disputes and ethnic tensions, has become a focal point where environmental concerns intersect with narratives of colonialism and resistance in contemporary discourse. Turkey's actions in Kurdistan of Iraq are framed within a historical context of geopolitical ambitions and ethnic dynamics, often invoking narratives reminiscent of colonialist rhetoric. The invasion and subsequent occupation have not only geopolitical ramifications but also profound ecological consequences, impacting biodiversity, water resources, and local ecosystems. These environmental impacts are intricately linked to broader discussions of climate change and environmental justice, highlighting the disproportionate burden borne by marginalized communities in conflict zones.

In parallel, contemporary postcolonial literature provides a critical lens through which to examine and critique these dynamics. Writers and intellectuals from Kurdish backgrounds offer narratives that challenge dominant discourses, portraying themes of displacement, ecological vulnerability, and resistance against colonial oppression. Through their literary works, they articulate the environmental dimensions of conflict and underscore the resilience of communities amidst adversity.

This study explores the intersections of climate change and colonial narratives within the context of Turkey's invasion of Kurdistan of Iraq. By analyzing both environmental impacts and literary representations, it seeks to unravel the complexities of power, ecology, and identity in a region shaped by historical injustices and contemporary geopolitical strife. Through this exploration, we aim to contribute to broader discussions on environmental justice, postcolonial critique, and the global implications of localized conflicts.

Colonial Narratives and Turkey's Intervention

Turkey's military intervention in Kurdistan of Iraq is deeply embedded in historical colonial legacies (Bekas, 2024). The Kurdish population has a long history of marginalization and repression within Turkey and neighboring regions (Ahmed, 2023). These military actions are often seen as a continuation of historical efforts to control and suppress Kurdish aspirations (Khan & Yılmaz, 2023). These narratives often draw parallels with colonial rhetoric, framing military operations as necessary for regional stability and the protection of state sovereignty (Holifield, 2014). This rhetoric constructs the Kurdish identity as a threat to the national unity and territorial integrity of Turkey, echoing colonial ideologies that depicted indigenous populations as obstacles to state-building and modernization. The persistence of these narratives underscores the enduring influence of colonial frameworks in contemporary geopolitical strategies.

To understand Turkey's intervention, it is essential to consider the historical context. The Kurdish population has a long history of marginalization and repression within Turkey and neighbouring regions. Significant events, such as the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923 and the subsequent denial of Kurdish identity and rights, have fueled ongoing tensions. The treaty, which established the boundaries of modern Turkey, excluded recognition of the Kurdish nation, leading to a policy of assimilation and denial of Kurdish cultural and political rights. In

this context, Turkey's military actions are often seen as a continuation of historical efforts to control and suppress Kurdish aspirations (Kreyenbroek & Sperl, 2006). Over the decades, various uprisings and demands for autonomy by the Kurds have been met with harsh military responses, reinforcing a cycle of conflict and repression that continues to this day.

The discourse surrounding Turkey's intervention reflects a complex intersection of historical grievances, ethnic tensions, and geopolitical ambitions. The Kurdish population, long marginalized within Turkey and neighboring regions, has faced systematic repression and displacement, further compounded by military campaigns in Iraq's Kurdish-majority areas (Kreyenbroek & Sperl, 2006). Specific examples, such as the 1990s military campaigns and the more recent operations against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), illustrate the ongoing impact on Kurdish communities. These operations, often characterized by extensive aerial bombings and ground incursions, have led to significant civilian casualties and displacement, further deepening the humanitarian crisis. The PKK, which Turkey, the US, and the EU have designated as a terrorist organization, has been at the center of this conflict, with Turkey's military actions justified as anti-terror operations despite their broader impact on the Kurdish civilian population.

Environmental concerns also feature prominently in discussions of Turkey's intervention. The military presence and infrastructure development in Kurdistan of Iraq have led to significant environmental degradation, including deforestation, water contamination, and disruption of local ecosystems (Kreyenbroek & Sperl, 2006). These environmental impacts disproportionately affect Kurdish communities, exacerbating vulnerabilities and undermining sustainable livelihoods in the region. The construction of military bases and roads has not only displaced communities but also disrupted traditional agricultural practices and access to natural resources. Moreover, the pollution resulting from military activities has had long-term health consequences for the local population, further entrenching the socio-economic disparities faced by the Kurds.

Analyzing these colonial narratives through a postcolonial theoretical framework provides insights into how state interests and security concerns intersect with environmental justice issues in conflict zones. Postcolonial theory helps elucidate how historical power dynamics and colonial legacies continue to shape contemporary state practices and ideologies. By critically examining the discourses used to justify military interventions, this study aims to uncover their implications for Kurdish identity, environmental sustainability, and broader regional stability. Understanding the intersectionality of these issues is crucial for developing more holistic and just policies that address both the immediate security concerns and the long-term needs of marginalized communities.

Environmental Impacts of Turkey's Intervention

Turkey's military intervention in the Kurdistan region of Iraq has led to severe environmental consequences, exacerbating ecological vulnerabilities and undermining sustainable development. This section explores the multifaceted environmental impacts of

Turkey's actions, emphasizing the interconnectedness of conflict, militarization, and ecological degradation.

Turkey's military intervention in the Kurdistan region of Iraq has led to severe environmental consequences, including significant deforestation and destruction of natural habitats (Mustafa, 2024). For example, the construction of military bases and roads has resulted in the widespread clearing of forests (Kreyenbroek & Sperl, 2006). For instance, the devastation of ancient oak forests in the Qandeel Mountains has not only led to habitat loss for various endemic species but has also compromised critical ecological functions. Forests play an essential role in carbon sequestration, climate regulation, and providing habitat for diverse species. Their removal contributes to increased greenhouse gas emissions, exacerbating global climate change. Moreover, the loss of keystone species due to habitat destruction can trigger cascading effects throughout the ecosystem, leading to the potential collapse of intricate ecological networks.

In addition to deforestation, Turkey's intervention has had substantial impacts on water resources in the region. Infrastructure projects, including the construction of dams and military installations, have altered natural water flows, diminishing access to clean water for local communities and raising concerns about water contamination (Kreyenbroek & Sperl, 2006). For instance, the diversion of the Great Zab River has led to reduced water levels, adversely affecting downstream agricultural communities and threatening local food security. Contaminated water sources pose serious health risks, including outbreaks of waterborne diseases, which are particularly devastating in conflict-affected areas. Furthermore, the alteration of river courses and the diversion of water for military and infrastructural purposes exacerbate the scarcity of water for agriculture, undermining the livelihoods of farmers and impacting regional food production. The drying up of wetlands and rivers further disrupts the biodiversity and ecological balance of the region. The issue of transboundary water management also complicates the situation, as upstream activities in Turkey affect downstream users in Iraq, intensifying regional water conflicts.

Military activities and changes in land use associated with Turkey's intervention have led to significant soil degradation and agricultural impacts. The expansion of military operations and infrastructure development disrupt traditional farming practices, leading to soil erosion and loss of fertile topsoil crucial for crop production (Kreyenbroek & Sperl, 2006). For example, the use of heavy machinery and deforestation contribute to soil erosion, resulting in decreased agricultural yields and increased dependence on imported food, thereby heightening food insecurity. Additionally, contamination of soil from military waste and chemicals renders land unsuitable for farming, creating long-term economic challenges for rural populations. The use of cluster bombs in agricultural areas has left unexploded ordnance, which continues to pose risks to farmers and hinder agricultural activities. Such ordnance can also prevent land from being used for other purposes, such as grazing or construction, further restricting economic opportunities and exacerbating socio-economic hardships.

Despite these significant environmental and socio-economic challenges, Kurdish communities have shown remarkable resilience in adapting to the impacts of Turkey's intervention. Local initiatives and community-led conservation efforts are crucial in mitigating environmental damage and promoting sustainable resource management amidst ongoing conflict. These efforts include reforestation projects, sustainable farming practices, and the protection of water sources (Kreyenbroek & Sperl, 2006). Community-led conservation projects often integrate traditional ecological knowledge and practices, which are essential for maintaining regional biodiversity and cultural heritage. For example, the establishment of community-managed protected areas enables local residents to take an active role in conserving natural resources and biodiversity. Collaborations with international environmental

organizations also provide technical and financial support, enhancing the effectiveness of these local initiatives.

In summary, Turkey's intervention in the Kurdistan region of Iraq has had extensive and varied environmental impacts, affecting forests, water resources, and agricultural lands. The interconnected nature of these impacts underscores the need for comprehensive strategies to address both environmental degradation and socio-economic challenges. Kurdish communities' resilience and adaptive strategies offer valuable insights into managing these complex issues. By examining these experiences and drawing lessons from similar contexts in other conflict-affected regions, we can better understand and address the multifaceted interplay of conflict, militarization, and environmental degradation. This approach not only highlights the urgent need for effective environmental management but also underscores the importance of supporting local resilience and sustainable development efforts.

Literary Representations and Resistance Narratives

Postcolonial literature provides a crucial lens through which to examine and analyze the environmental and socio-political impacts of Turkey's intervention in Kurdistan of Iraq. This intervention has had profound repercussions on Kurdish communities, shaping their experiences of conflict, displacement, and ecological devastation (Zengin, 2023). Kurdish writers and intellectuals have leveraged literature as a powerful medium to document these impacts, resist oppression, and advocate for justice (Bekas, 2024). This literary response not only captures the immediate effects of these interventions but also engages with broader themes of resistance, resilience, and cultural preservation.

In exploring these themes, Kurdish literature frequently delves into the experiences of displacement and loss that have resulted from Turkey's intervention. These narratives vividly depict the forced migration of Kurdish communities, the destruction of homes and livelihoods, and the erasure of cultural heritage amidst ongoing conflict (Ahmed, 2017). Through personal stories and collective memories, these works highlight the emotional and psychological toll of displacement, providing a voice to those uprooted from their ancestral lands. Furthermore, the themes of loss extend beyond physical displacement to encompass the erosion of cultural practices, languages, and community structures integral to Kurdish identity. For example, Bakhtiyar Ali's *The Last Pomegranate Tree* illustrates not only the profound sense of loss experienced by Kurdish families but also examines the intergenerational impact of displacement on cultural and social identity. This portrayal emphasizes how displacement disrupts the fundamental connection between land and identity.

Moreover, Kurdish literature addresses the ecological vulnerability and environmental justice issues exacerbated by Turkey's military actions. Writers highlight the degradation of natural landscapes, loss of biodiversity, and the unequal distribution of environmental harms that disproportionately affect Kurdish populations (Khan et al., 2022). These narratives often emphasize the interconnectedness of environmental and social injustices, demonstrating how ecological damage exacerbates existing socio-economic inequalities. By advocating for environmental justice, Kurdish literature calls for the recognition of the rights of Kurdish communities to a healthy and sustainable environment. For instance, Sherko Bekas's poetry juxtaposes the beauty of Kurdish landscapes with the scars left by war and environmental

destruction, urging readers to acknowledge and address these injustices. Consequently, these works often serve as calls to action, mobilizing both local and international communities to support environmental justice initiatives. Bekas's work reflects the deep-seated connection between ecological health and cultural well-being, advocating for a holistic approach to addressing both environmental and social justice.

Central to Kurdish literature are narratives of resistance and resilience against colonial oppression and environmental degradation. Authors portray characters who defy military occupation, assert their cultural identity, and advocate for environmental stewardship amidst adversity (Ahmed, 2017; Khan et al., 2022). These stories frequently feature protagonists engaged in acts of environmental activism, protecting their lands from further exploitation, and preserving cultural traditions. For instance, Mehmed Uzun's *In the Shadow of a Lost Dream* tells the story of a young Kurdish activist fighting against environmental and cultural oppression, highlighting both individual and collective resistance. In this way, these narratives underscore the pivotal roles played by women and youth in resistance movements, showcasing their significant contributions to cultural and environmental preservation. Through such portrayals, Kurdish literature not only documents the struggles of the Kurdish people but also inspires hope and encourages ongoing resistance.

Furthermore, literature serves as a vital medium for preserving Kurdish cultural identity and resisting cultural erasure in the face of external interventions. Kurdish authors use storytelling, folklore, and historical narratives to reclaim autonomy and sovereignty, asserting Kurdish heritage amidst ongoing geopolitical struggles (Khan et al., 2022). These literary works play a crucial role in maintaining a sense of community and continuity, connecting the past with the present and future. By celebrating Kurdish culture and history, these narratives challenge dominant discourses that seek to marginalize and silence Kurdish voices, reinforcing the importance of cultural preservation in the fight for self-determination and justice. For example, Mehmed Uzun's *The Miracle of the Pomegranate* blends historical fiction with folklore to celebrate Kurdish heritage and resilience. Additionally, these works often incorporate elements of oral tradition, ensuring that stories and knowledge passed down through generations are preserved and shared with wider audiences.

Moreover, Kurdish authors employ a range of literary genres and forms, including poetry, short stories, novels, and essays, to explore these themes. Each genre offers unique ways to convey experiences of displacement, environmental justice, and cultural preservation. For instance, Sherko Bekas's poetry often reflects the aesthetic beauty and tragic destruction of Kurdish landscapes, while Bakhtiyar Ali's novels delve into personal and collective experiences of loss and resilience. Global literary movements such as post-colonialism, eco-criticism, and feminist literature influence these works, which provide frameworks for understanding the interplay between environmental and socio-political issues. Engaging with these broader trends, Kurdish literature enriches global conversations about resistance and justice, underscoring the universal relevance of its themes.

Finally, Kurdish literature not only documents the struggles of Kurdish communities but also exerts a tangible impact on readers and activism. By raising awareness of environmental and socio-political issues, these works influence public opinion and policy and inspire activism both within Kurdish communities and internationally. Through their storytelling, Kurdish

authors challenge readers to confront injustices, engage in advocacy, and participate in efforts to support environmental and cultural preservation.

Intersections of Climate Change and Colonialism

The intersection of climate change and colonialism in the context of Turkey's intervention in Kurdistan of Iraq reveals complex dynamics of power, ecology, and environmental justice. This interplay underscores how historical colonial legacies continue to shape contemporary environmental challenges and geopolitical conflicts. Specifically, the Ottoman and British colonial rule in the region has left deep-seated socio-political divisions and unequal resource distribution, which persistently influence modern environmental policies and resource management practices. Consequently, these colonial legacies have contributed to current ecological vulnerabilities and established precedents for the exploitation and management of natural resources in the region.

Moreover, Turkey's military interventions exacerbate environmental injustices in Kurdistan of Iraq, where Kurdish communities face disproportionate ecological harm and resource exploitation. The historical marginalization of Kurds intersects with ongoing environmental degradation, perpetuating cycles of vulnerability and socio-economic inequality (Holifield, 2014). The external control over natural resources and land reflects a legacy of colonial exploitation, with benefits skewed towards external powers while local communities endure severe ecological and health consequences. For instance, the construction of dams on the Tigris and Euphrates rivers has significantly altered water availability and quality, thereby exacerbating environmental stress and local tensions. This disruption in water resources highlights how historical patterns of resource control continue to impact local populations.

Nevertheless, despite these challenges, Kurdish communities demonstrate remarkable resilience through adaptive strategies and community-led initiatives aimed at mitigating climate impacts. Local efforts, such as establishing community gardens, reviving traditional agricultural practices, and applying indigenous knowledge to water management and conservation, exemplify this resilience (Kreyenbroek & Sperl, 2006). For example, the restoration of terraced farming in mountainous regions has successfully reduced soil erosion and improved water retention, showcasing an effective blend of traditional and modern methods. These initiatives, characterized by grassroots mobilization and solidarity, not only enhance community cohesion but also address environmental challenges effectively. By integrating both traditional practices and contemporary sustainable methods, Kurdish communities can strengthen their resilience and address climate impacts.

To address these intersecting issues comprehensively, policy changes are essential. It is crucial to integrate local communities into environmental decision-making processes to ensure that their rights and needs are met. Additionally, international cooperation should focus on supporting sustainable resource management and addressing human rights issues related to environmental degradation. Creating frameworks that recognize and address the unique challenges faced by marginalized communities, including equitable access to resources and health impacts, is essential for promoting justice and equity. Beyond water and agriculture,

environmental changes significantly impact the livelihoods of Kurdish communities. These impacts extend to health, economic stability, and cultural practices, with changes in water quality potentially leading to health issues and environmental degradation disrupting traditional practices and economic activities.

Future research should explore how global climate policies affect local conditions and vice versa. Interdisciplinary studies that combine environmental science, history, and social justice can provide deeper insights into these issues. Comparative studies with other regions experiencing similar intersections of colonial legacies and environmental conflicts could reveal useful lessons and strategies. Examining other regions where colonial histories intersect with environmental issues can provide a broader context. For instance, exploring environmental justice cases in post-colonial states with similar resource control issues might offer comparative insights and highlight common patterns. Furthermore, incorporating local and indigenous knowledge in addressing environmental and climate challenges is crucial. Learning from contexts where traditional knowledge has been successfully integrated into environmental management can offer valuable guidance. In Kurdistan of Iraq, blending traditional practices with modern sustainable methods can enhance resilience and effectiveness in managing environmental impacts. Overall, understanding how historical colonial policies have shaped current environmental governance is vital for addressing ongoing challenges. Additionally, examining how local environmental issues intersect with global climate change dynamics can provide a broader perspective on these interconnected problems. By addressing both local and global dimensions of environmental justice, comprehensive strategies can be developed to promote sustainable and equitable solutions for Kurdish communities.

Global Implications and Climate Justice

Analysing Turkey's intervention through the lens of climate justice highlights the global implications of local environmental conflicts. Kurdish struggles for autonomy and environmental sustainability resonate with broader movements advocating for climate reparations, equitable resource distribution, and indigenous rights on a global scale (Whyte, 2018). The environmental degradation in Kurdistan is not an isolated issue but part of a global pattern where marginalized communities disproportionately endure the worst impacts of climate change and ecological harm. For example, similar struggles are seen in Indigenous communities in the Amazon, where deforestation and resource extraction threaten both their environment and cultural heritage.

This connection underscores the importance of international solidarity and the need for global frameworks that address the root causes of environmental injustice, including historical exploitation and contemporary geopolitical power imbalances. It also calls for recognizing the right to a healthy environment as a fundamental human right, advocating for policies that ensure fair compensation for ecological damage and support sustainable development in affected regions. International agreements like the Paris Agreement and movements such as the Indigenous Environmental Network can serve as platforms to amplify Kurdish voices and advocate for global climate justice. These platforms provide opportunities for Kurdish activists to engage with a broader audience, drawing attention to their struggles and garnering international support.

De-colonial approaches to environmental governance emphasize indigenous knowledge systems, community-based participatory research, and ethical considerations in addressing environmental challenges. By centering local perspectives and narratives, de-colonial frameworks offer pathways to reconcile historical injustices and promote sustainable futures grounded in justice and equity (Smith, 2012). These approaches challenge the dominant paradigms of environmental management that often marginalize Indigenous voices and fail to address the socio-political dimensions of ecological issues. For instance, the participatory water management systems in India and community-managed forests in Brazil highlight successful de-colonial strategies that empower local communities to take control of their natural resources.

De-colonial strategies involve empowering local communities to take control of their natural resources, ensuring their participation in decision-making processes, and integrating traditional ecological knowledge into modern environmental practices. This approach not only promotes ecological sustainability but also supports cultural preservation and strengthens community resilience. In Kurdistan, integrating traditional agricultural practices with modern sustainable methods can enhance local resilience to climate impacts. Projects like community-managed forests and participatory water management systems serve as inspiring models. Furthermore, a detailed de-colonial approach would include specific steps like forming community advisory boards for environmental projects, implementing policies that recognize and compensate for traditional ecological knowledge, and fostering international collaborations that respect and elevate local practices. By learning from global examples and tailoring these strategies to the unique context of Kurdistan, there can be significant progress in addressing both environmental and social justice issues.

Toward Environmental Justice and Sustainable Futures

The intersection of climate change, colonialism, and Turkey's intervention in Kurdistan of Iraq underscores urgent imperatives for environmental justice and sustainable development in conflict-affected regions. This synthesis of environmental degradation, historical injustices, and geopolitical tensions calls for transformative approaches to address ecological vulnerabilities and promote resilience among marginalized communities. Turkey's military interventions have perpetuated environmental injustices, exacerbating socio-economic disparities and ecological degradation in Kurdistan of Iraq. Kurdish communities, historically marginalized and disproportionately impacted by conflict and environmental harm, advocate for equitable resource distribution and recognition of indigenous rights within broader climate justice movements (Holifield, 2014). For instance, Kurdish environmental activists have organized campaigns to raise awareness about the ecological impacts of dam construction on the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, which have significantly disrupted local ecosystems and water supplies. These communities call for the restoration of their rights to land and natural resources, the cessation of environmentally harmful military practices, and the implementation of policies that prioritize their well-being and environmental health. Advocacy efforts also emphasize the need for accountability and reparations for the ecological and human rights abuses resulting from military interventions. Documenting these abuses and presenting them to international bodies like the United Nations can help in seeking justice and reparations.

Achieving sustainability in conflict zones necessitates holistic approaches that integrate ecological resilience, cultural preservation, and community empowerment. Local initiatives in Kurdistan of Iraq demonstrate resilience through adaptive environmental strategies and cultural practices that sustain livelihoods and biodiversity amid ongoing challenges (Kreyenbroek & Sperl, 2006). These initiatives serve as models for sustainable development that can be replicated in other conflict-affected regions. For example, community-led reforestation projects have not only helped restore degraded lands but also provided local employment and strengthened community bonds. By fostering collaborations between local communities, non-governmental organizations, and international bodies, sustainable practices can be scaled up to address broader environmental challenges. Additionally, the integration of peace-building efforts with environmental conservation can create synergies that enhance both ecological and social stability. Programs that train local youth in environmental conservation and conflict resolution skills are particularly promising, as they build capacity for long-term sustainability and peace.

The Kurdish struggle for environmental justice resonates globally, highlighting interconnected struggles for climate reparations, indigenous rights, and equitable environmental governance. International solidarity and collaborative efforts are essential in addressing the transnational impacts of conflict and climate change, advocating for policies that prioritize environmental stewardship and social equity on a global scale (Whyte, 2018). For instance, global movements like Fridays for Future and Extinction Rebellion have shown solidarity with Kurdish activists, amplifying their calls for environmental justice. This solidarity also involves supporting international legal frameworks that protect the rights of indigenous and marginalized communities and promote sustainable development. International NGOs and advocacy groups can play a crucial role in amplifying Kurdish voices and building global networks of support. Moving forward, addressing the environmental and socio-political complexities in Kurdistan of Iraq requires collective action and commitment to justice-oriented approaches. It calls for amplifying marginalized voices, supporting community-led initiatives, and challenging systems of oppression that perpetuate environmental degradation and human rights abuses. Policymakers, activists, and international organizations must work together to create inclusive and participatory platforms for decision-making, ensuring that the needs and perspectives of affected communities are central to environmental governance. Additionally, efforts to raise awareness and mobilize resources for environmental justice initiatives must be sustained and amplified to achieve long-term, impactful change. Specific actions could include international campaigns to raise awareness about the environmental impacts of military interventions, partnerships with universities for research and capacity building, and lobbying for policy changes at both national and international levels.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the intersection of climate change and colonialism in Turkey's intervention in Kurdistan of Iraq underscores the imperative for integrated approaches to environmental justice and sustainable development. This comprehensive analysis has shown how historical injustices, socio-economic disparities, and environmental degradation are intertwined, creating complex challenges for Kurdish communities. By centering environmental governance on principles of equity, resilience, and decolonial justice, we can

foster pathways toward a more just and sustainable future for conflict-affected communities worldwide.

To address these multifaceted issues, it is crucial to implement holistic strategies that not only tackle immediate environmental challenges but also dismantle systemic inequalities perpetuating ecological and social injustices. This involves recognizing and restoring the rights of marginalized communities to their land and natural resources, ensuring their active participation in decision-making processes, and integrating traditional ecological knowledge with modern sustainable practices.

The urgency of these actions cannot be overstated. As climate change intensifies, the vulnerabilities of conflict-affected and marginalized regions like Kurdistan will only increase, making it essential to act swiftly and decisively. Global solidarity is paramount in this endeavor. International organizations, governments, and civil society must come together to support and amplify the efforts of local communities, advocating for policies that promote environmental justice and sustainable development.

By committing to sustained efforts and fostering global solidarity, we can envision a world where environmental justice and sustainability are accessible to all, especially those in conflict-affected and marginalized regions. This vision includes equitable resource distribution, resilient communities capable of adapting to environmental changes, and a decolonized approach to environmental governance that prioritizes the voices and rights of indigenous and marginalized peoples. Through collective action and unwavering dedication to justice, we can pave the way for a healthier, more equitable, and sustainable future for all.

About the Author

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Declaration of AI Refined

This document has benefited from the application of AI-driven tools, including Grammarly and Scholar AI Chat, to refine its linguistic aspects. These tools were utilized to correct grammar and spelling and improve the overall writing style. It is acknowledged that the use of these technologies may introduce certain AI-generated linguistic patterns. However, the core intellectual content, data interpretation, and conclusions presented remain the sole work of the authors.

Statement of Absence of Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest related to the research, findings, or recommendations presented in this paper. All conclusions drawn are independent and unbiased.

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