

CHAPTER EIGHT

Regionalism in the Islamic World

“Islam is not a place; it is a religion . . . the word . . . means both more and less than the equivalent term for Christians . . . it is the whole of life, and its rules include civil, criminal, and even what we would call constitutional law.” B. Lewis, 1993. p. 3

PURPOSE

The Arab and Islamic world presents another variety—and a very loose one—of regionalism. The diverse Islamic world presents an entirely different set of issues, which directly impact the current IPE and disrupts fundamental assumptions about global processes. The Islamic world, its religion, culture and recent experience with the West presents an entirely different political-socio organisation, which directly impact the current IPE and disrupts fundamental assumptions about global processes. Many analysts forward strong arguments that regionalization and Islamic fundamentalism may impede multi-lateralism especially as regional powers move to protect domestic and welfare interests. This chapter will outline the important dynamics affecting the Islamic regional group. Importantly the US by changing the Iraqi regime and pulling its troops out of Saudi Arabia is coercing needed change.

