The Policy of the United Arab Emirates in Promoting Peaceful Coexistence, Cultural Initiatives and the Manifestations of Shared Living

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Abstract
This study examines the policy of the United Arab Emirates in promoting peaceful coexistence within a multicultural society. The purpose of the research is to analyse how coexistence has developed from a social value into a structured public policy supported by cultural, educational, and community initiatives. The study also seeks to explain how these initiatives contribute to strengthening social cohesion and maintaining stability in a culturally diverse environment. The research adopts an analytical and descriptive approach based on the review of relevant literature, policy frameworks, and cultural initiatives implemented in the Emirati context. It analyses the conceptual foundations of peaceful coexistence and evaluates the role of cultural institutions, educational systems, and community partnerships in promoting tolerance and dialogue within society. The findings indicate that the Emirati model of peaceful coexistence is characterized by the integration of official policies and community practices. Cultural initiatives, educational programs, and civil society engagement play a significant role in transforming cultural diversity into a source of social strength that supports community security and stability. The study also shows that coexistence has become an important element of the country's soft power and contributes to strengthening its international image. The research concludes that sustaining this model requires the continued development of cultural initiatives, the expansion of community participation, and the adaptation of policies to ongoing social and digital transformations. These efforts are essential for reinforcing the values of tolerance and dialogue as fundamental components of national identity and the broader value system of society.
Keywords: Peaceful Coexistence, Cultural Initiatives, Living Together, Values Of Tolerance, Community Security

Introduction

The policy of the United Arab Emirates in promoting peaceful coexistence represents an institutional model for managing cultural and religious diversity within the framework of a modern state that seeks to achieve social stability and build social capital based on mutual trust and respect. The state has adopted a strategic approach that moves the concept of tolerance from the level of moral discourse to the level of implementable public policies through legislation, initiatives, and programs aimed at consolidating a culture of coexistence in everyday life. This orientation can be understood within a broader context in which tolerance is utilized as an instrument of soft power and as a means of strengthening the country's international image, thereby enhancing its regional and global standing (Al-Darmaki, 2020). The literature also indicates that the Emirati framework for tolerance is grounded in an organized vision for managing pluralism within a multicultural society, where diversity is viewed as a factor that supports development rather than a source of tension (Brankovic, 2024).

At the practical level, cultural and social initiatives constitute a key mechanism for translating the policy of peaceful coexistence into concrete practices. Intellectual conferences, cultural programs, interfaith dialogue initiatives, and joint community activities serve as practical platforms for enhancing positive interaction among different segments of society. Studies indicate that such initiatives contribute to the development of social attitudes supportive of tolerance by providing spaces for dialogue and cooperation, which in turn strengthens social harmony and reduces exclusionary tendencies (Al-Karbi et al., 2024). This reflects a shift from viewing diversity as a demographic challenge to recognizing it as a cultural and social resource that can be invested in strengthening social peace and internal cohesion.

From a strategic perspective, promoting peaceful coexistence is also linked to intellectual and social prevention. The dissemination of a culture of tolerance and moderation represents one of the pathways for building a societal environment resistant to extremism and hate speech. This relationship is evident in national policies that combine cultural dimensions with preventive security considerations, thereby reinforcing stability and enhancing society's resilience to contemporary ideological challenges. Recent studies emphasize that the sustainability of the Emirati model of coexistence depends on the continued development and expansion of cultural initiatives so that the values of shared living become an integral part of national identity and the broader value system of society (Al-Falah and Al-Zaabi, 2025). Accordingly, this study seeks to analyze the policy of the United Arab Emirates in promoting peaceful coexistence by focusing on cultural initiatives and the manifestations of shared living, with the aim of understanding how values are transformed into policies and how policies evolve into sustainable social practices.

First, the Conceptual Framework of the Policy of Peaceful Coexistence in the UAE

Peaceful coexistence in the United Arab Emirates represents an integrated conceptual framework for managing religious and cultural diversity within a social structure characterized by multiple nationalities, ethnicities, and languages. This framework did not emerge spontaneously, rather it evolved through an institutional process associated with the construction of the modern state. Demographic pluralism in the UAE has not been treated merely as a challenge requiring containment, but rather as a strategic reality that requires policies capable of regulating relationships among societal components on the basis of mutual

respect and the rule of law. From this perspective, peaceful coexistence has become part of the state's organizational philosophy, where diversity is managed through a legislative and cultural system that emphasizes human dignity, freedom of belief, and the practice of religious rituals within the framework of public order. Studies demonstrate that this conceptual foundation is based on a vision that regards tolerance as a governing principle in the relationship between individuals and society and between society and the state, thereby creating a stable social environment that reduces potential tensions in multicultural communities (Othman and Babiker, 2025).

This framework extends beyond the social dimension to acquire a strategic significance connected to the country's regional and international position. In the Emirati context, coexistence has evolved into a fundamental component of the state's soft power. The UAE presents its model of tolerance as evidence of its capacity to manage diversity in a region characterized by complex cultural and political challenges. This approach enhances the country's reputation as a safe environment for investment, work, and living. Moreover, it has contributed to linking social stability with economic development. The literature suggests that societies characterized by a high degree of cultural harmony tend to attract capital and human talent more effectively, thereby strengthening the country's international competitiveness. Consequently, peaceful coexistence in the Emirati context is not merely understood as a humanitarian value, but rather as a long term developmental and strategic choice (Al-Hammadi and Al-Waeli, 2024).

At the institutional level, the Emirati discourse on peaceful coexistence emphasizes the transformation of values into measurable and implementable policies. In this sense, tolerance becomes part of the structure of social governance. The concept is linked to education, culture, media, and community engagement, sectors that operate in an integrated manner to reproduce the values of shared living in the everyday behavior of individuals. This orientation reflects a transition from perceiving coexistence as a natural outcome of diversity to viewing it as a public policy that requires continuous planning and evaluation. It also contributes to redefining national identity as an inclusive identity capable of accommodating diversity rather than eliminating it, thereby strengthening the sense of shared belonging despite cultural plurality. Several studies indicate that such an approach contributes to the construction of a societal model capable of managing differences through dialogue and positive interaction rather than isolation or conflict (Bannaser, 2024).

Second, Cultural Initiatives as an Instrument for Implementing the Policy of Peaceful Coexistence
Cultural initiatives in the United Arab Emirates constitute one of the central instruments for translating the policy of peaceful coexistence from the level of conceptual framework to the level of daily social practice. The state has not limited itself to framing tolerance within official discourse, rather it has developed a broad system of events and programs that promote cultural interaction and dialogue among the diverse components of society. These initiatives include intellectual conferences, cultural forums, artistic activities, interfaith dialogue programs, and community initiatives that encourage collaborative work among various population groups. Such an approach reflects the understanding that values are not consolidated through formal texts alone, but through direct social experiences that enable individuals to interact and cooperate in shared spaces. Studies demonstrate that these

initiatives contribute to reducing social distance among different cultural groups and support the development of communication networks based on trust and mutual respect (Shaheen, 2017).

These initiatives also possess a well-organized institutional character, as they are managed within strategic frameworks involving governmental bodies, cultural institutions, and civil society organizations. This reflects a participatory model in promoting coexistence. Cultural initiatives in the UAE are therefore not presented as seasonal events, but as part of an ongoing policy aimed at strengthening societal awareness of the values of tolerance and diversity. The literature confirms that the institutional nature of these efforts ensures their sustainability and prevents them from being reduced to symbolic events with limited impact. Instead, these activities are connected to long term educational and cultural objectives that aim to embed the concepts of dialogue and acceptance of others within the broader culture of society (Brankovic, 2024).

From the perspective of social impact, cultural initiatives contribute to reshaping perceptions toward difference by providing interactive spaces where individuals encounter diverse cultural backgrounds within a positive framework based on cooperation. Such patterns of interaction reduce the likelihood of negative stereotypes and strengthen the sense of belonging to a multicultural society that embraces diversity within a shared national framework. Some studies indicate that community initiatives with a cultural dimension contribute to transforming tolerance from a theoretical value into a behavioral practice, thereby strengthening social cohesion and reducing the potential for tension or isolation among different groups. In this sense, cultural initiatives function as practical mechanisms for producing shared living rather than merely symbolizing it (Bannaser, 2024).

Third, The Role of Educational and Cultural Institutions in Consolidating Coexistence
Educational and cultural institutions in the United Arab Emirates play a pivotal role in consolidating the policy of peaceful coexistence at both the value based and cognitive levels. These institutions constitute the primary environment in which the concepts of tolerance and openness are reproduced within individuals' consciousness from the early stages of socialization. Schools, universities, and cultural centers do not merely transmit academic knowledge, but also contribute to building a value system that promotes respect for religious and cultural diversity while supporting skills of dialogue and mutual understanding. Studies indicate that integrating the concepts of tolerance within educational curricula and accompanying cultural activities enhances individuals' willingness to accept differences and reduces exclusionary tendencies that may arise in multicultural environments (Al-Falah and Al-Zaabi, 2025).

Cultural institutions, including intellectual centers, museums, and literary forums, also play a complementary role in deepening awareness of the historical interactions among civilizations. This perspective reinforces the understanding of diversity as a historically rooted human phenomenon rather than a temporary contemporary condition. Such a cultural approach promotes the idea that coexistence does not represent a compromise of identity, but rather a form of civilizational maturity that allows different identities to interact without conflict. The literature emphasizes that presenting historical experiences of intercultural dialogue contributes to dismantling binary perceptions that divide the world into "us" and "them,"

replacing them with an interactive vision based on exchange and integration (Al-Khatri and Mohammed, 2018).

At the institutional level, this educational and cultural role operates within the framework of public policies that encourage integration among education, culture, and media. These sectors function in a coordinated manner to promote consistent value-based messages. Such integration ensures coherence in societal discourse concerning coexistence and prevents the emergence of a gap between what is taught within educational institutions and what is practiced within the public sphere. Studies indicate that such institutional coherence enhances the effectiveness of tolerance related policies by reproducing them across different levels of social interaction, from schools to the broader cultural environment (Brankovic, 2024).

Fourth, Peaceful Coexistence and Its Relationship with Social Security and Stability
Promoting peaceful coexistence in the United Arab Emirates is closely connected to the concept of social security, where tolerance and moderation are viewed as preventive instruments that protect society from extremism and hate speech. Building an environment based on mutual respect and acceptance of differences reduces the likelihood of cultural or religious conflicts that could threaten internal stability. Studies indicate that policies promoting social integration and positive interaction among diverse groups contribute to increasing societal trust, a fundamental element in achieving long term social security (Al-Jabri, 2022).

This relationship between coexistence and security does not rely solely on conventional security approaches, but also on intellectual and cultural strategies aimed at addressing the roots of extremism through the promotion of dialogue and openness. In this context, tolerance functions not merely as a moral value but as a preventive mechanism that reduces individuals' susceptibility to extremist or exclusionary ideologies. The literature indicates that societies characterized by high levels of cultural and social cohesion are more capable of resisting discourses that seek to promote division and conflict (Al-Darmaki, 2020).

From the perspective of public policy, the UAE appears to adopt an integrated approach that links cultural and educational initiatives with the objectives of social stability. Policies of tolerance are thus understood within a broader framework aimed at promoting civil peace. This integration reflects the recognition that sustainable security cannot be achieved through regulatory measures alone, but through the construction of a shared value system that strengthens society from within. Several studies emphasize that such a preventive model enhances the state's ability to maintain stability within a dynamic regional environment while strengthening its image as a country that supports peace and coexistence at both national and international levels (Mahmoud and Ahmed, 2021).

Fifth, Civil Society and Community Partnerships in Supporting Peaceful Coexistence
Civil society in the United Arab Emirates constitutes an important supporting pillar for the policy of peaceful coexistence through its role in activating community initiatives that encourage direct interaction among individuals from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds. Cultural and humanitarian associations, volunteer groups, intellectual forums, and community dialogue councils represent social spaces where the values of tolerance are

practiced in concrete ways beyond the purely official sphere. Such societal participation expands responsibility for coexistence to include individuals and civic institutions, thereby transforming tolerance from a governmental policy into a widely shared social culture. Studies demonstrate that this type of civic participation enhances what is known as social capital, namely networks of trust and cooperation among individuals, which represent a fundamental component of stability in multicultural societies and their capacity to manage differences constructively (Mahmoud and Ahmed, 2021).

Partnerships between governmental entities and civil society organizations also reflect a participatory governance model in promoting coexistence. Programs and initiatives are designed on the basis of a field based understanding of the needs of diverse social groups. Cooperation among these actors enables the development of initiatives that are more closely aligned with social realities and ensures that messages related to tolerance reach broader segments of society through culturally and linguistically appropriate channels. The literature indicates that such participatory governance strengthens mutual trust between the state and society and reduces the gap between public policies and their practical implementation. Moreover, the involvement of civil society in issues related to dialogue and coexistence reinforces the sense of shared responsibility for maintaining social peace rather than limiting this responsibility to the regulatory role of the state alone (Al-Karbi, Al-Salhi, and Al-Gharbawi, 2024).

From the perspective of long term social impact, community initiatives contribute to building horizontal relationships among individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds through joint volunteer, cultural, and humanitarian activities. This form of direct interaction creates opportunities for human connection that transcend narrow affiliations and strengthens the sense of belonging to a single yet diverse society. Collaborative engagement in humanitarian or cultural activities also helps break down mutual stereotypes and reshape perceptions toward the "other" within a framework of mutual respect. Studies indicate that societies characterized by vibrant civic participation are better equipped to absorb potential tensions and manage diversity flexibly because social relations are built upon broad and interconnected communication networks that reduce the likelihood of isolation or cultural closure (Bannaser, 2024).

Sixth, Peaceful Coexistence as a Pillar of Soft Power and the International Image of the UAE
Peaceful coexistence in the United Arab Emirates represents a fundamental component in shaping the country's international image. It has evolved from an internal policy for managing diversity into an influential element within the state's soft power strategy. The Emirati model of tolerance is presented internationally as evidence of the state's capacity to build a stable multicultural society within a region characterized by complex political and social challenges. This strategic utilization of coexistence enhances the country's attractiveness at economic, tourism, and cultural levels. A positive perception of a tolerant society contributes to increased international confidence in the country's legal and social environment. Studies suggest that states capable of establishing stable internal models of diversity are more able to utilize these models in strengthening their international standing and building external relations based on respect and cooperation (Al-Darmaki, 2020).

The Emirati discourse on tolerance also intersects with broader concepts of civilizational dialogue and intercultural rapprochement, granting the state a symbolic and moral role in supporting international efforts aimed at promoting peace and mutual understanding among nations. Hosting conferences and forums dedicated to dialogue and coexistence, as well as participating in related international initiatives, reflects a strategic orientation toward transforming the local experience into a global message. The literature suggests that this international engagement extends beyond symbolic representation, strengthening cultural and diplomatic networks while expanding the country's influence in issues related to tolerance and human rights on the global stage (Mahmoud and Ahmed, 2021).

From a strategic perspective, this orientation reflects the recognition that international reputation is no longer constructed solely through economic indicators but also through the value based image of society and the state. Peaceful coexistence thus becomes a moral asset that enhances international competitiveness and strengthens the country's ability to build long term partnerships with states and institutions that share similar values related to stability and openness. Studies also emphasize that sustaining this role requires maintaining consistency between external discourse and internal practice so that the model of coexistence continues to be supported by concrete policies and ongoing initiatives that strengthen shared living within society itself (Brankovic, 2024, Al-Falah and Al-Zaabi, 2025).

Seventh, Sustainability of the Model of Peaceful Coexistence and Future Challenges
The sustainability of the policy of peaceful coexistence in the United Arab Emirates is closely linked to its transformation from a set of initiatives and programs into a deeply rooted societal culture capable of being transmitted across generations. Multicultural societies are inherently dynamic and constantly evolving, which requires policies related to tolerance to remain flexible and adaptable to demographic and social transformations. Studies indicate that sustainable coexistence cannot be achieved solely through legal frameworks or cultural events, but requires long term accumulation in building collective awareness and strengthening dialogue skills and acceptance of differences within the social structure. In this sense, coexistence in the Emirati context is viewed as a continuous process requiring ongoing evaluation and renewal to remain effective in responding to emerging challenges (Al-Falah and Al-Zaabi, 2025).

Future challenges associated with digital globalization and the rapid circulation of ideas through social media introduce new dimensions to policies of coexistence. The virtual sphere has become a parallel arena for social interaction and may also facilitate the spread of transnational extremist or exclusionary discourse. Consequently, efforts to promote coexistence must extend to the digital environment through awareness and cultural initiatives aimed at strengthening critical thinking and the values of mutual respect in online spaces. The literature suggests that societies capable of transferring their positive values into the digital sphere are better positioned to protect their social fabric from cross cultural negative influences (Brankovic, 2024).

From a strategic standpoint, sustaining the coexistence model also depends on the capacity of both the state and society to maintain a balance between cultural specificity and global openness. Preserving an inclusive national identity that accommodates diversity without dissolving it represents one of the central challenges in multicultural societies. Studies

emphasize that achieving this balance requires continuous investment in education, culture, and community initiatives that reinforce shared belonging while providing safe spaces for the expression of diverse cultural identities. Accordingly, the future of peaceful coexistence in the UAE depends on the extent to which its values are embedded within the deeper structures of society so that they become part of everyday practices and the collective understanding of national identity (Bannaser, 2024, Al-Karbi, Al-Salhi, and Al-Gharbawi, 2024).

Conclusion

The analysis demonstrates that the policy of the United Arab Emirates in promoting peaceful coexistence did not emerge as a temporary response to specific social circumstances. Rather, it developed within a comprehensive strategic vision for managing cultural and religious diversity within a modern state committed to stability and sustainable development. The concept of coexistence has gradually evolved from an abstract moral discourse into an institutionalized public policy embedded within governance structures and functioning as a key component in shaping an inclusive national identity.

The study reveals that cultural initiatives have not been merely symbolic activities, but practical instruments reflecting a deep understanding of the dynamics of multicultural societies. Values are consolidated through direct interaction, civilizational dialogue, and collaborative engagement. Educational and cultural institutions have played a crucial role in reproducing the values of tolerance within collective consciousness, ensuring their transmission across generations and transforming them into sustainable patterns of social behavior. In addition, civil society organizations and community partnerships have expanded the sphere of responsibility for coexistence, transforming it from a governmental policy into a shared societal culture.

The findings also confirm that peaceful coexistence in the Emirati experience is closely linked to social security and functions as a preventive mechanism that strengthens society's resilience against hate speech and extremism. At the same time, it represents a central element in the construction of soft power and the enhancement of the country's international image. The Emirati model of tolerance has thus become a strategic moral asset that enhances the state's economic and cultural attractiveness while strengthening its role in international forums dedicated to dialogue and peace.

Nevertheless, the sustainability of this model remains dependent on the capacity of policies to adapt to rapid global transformations, particularly in light of digital globalization and the growing influence of online spaces in shaping collective consciousness. Maintaining a balance between global openness and an inclusive national identity remains an ongoing challenge that requires continuous policy innovation, strengthened media literacy, and sustained investment in human development.

At a broader level, peaceful coexistence has emerged as one of the central pillars of the UAE's soft power and an influential element in its international reputation and cultural relations. However, maintaining the sustainability of this model requires the continuous development of policies and initiatives capable of responding to accelerating social and digital transformations while preserving the balance between cultural specificity and global engagement. In this sense, the experience of the United Arab Emirates offers a contemporary

model for managing diversity in multicultural societies, grounded in institutional planning, community partnership, and long-term investment in culture and human development. This experience demonstrates that social peace is not a by-product of development but one of its foundational conditions, and that investing in a culture of shared living ultimately represents an investment in the stability and future of the state.

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