



Gulf States Transition Report to
Constitutional Kingdoms:
**GCC citizens overwhelmingly support
constitutional kingdoms**

Madarek for Political & Strategic Consultation

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Introduction

A constitutional monarchy is based on democratic foundations and civil parties through which the people are the source of authority while the king has a supervisory role. In a constitutional monarchy, the state does not interfere in the liberties and beliefs of individuals; instead a clear constitution and laws are governing this relationship.

In the current unstable and violent Gulf region and because of how this affected the whole world and is continuing to do so, Madarek for Political and Strategic Consultations (MPSC) initiated a survey to study the views of Gulf citizens about the transformation of their systems from full family ownership systems to constitutional kingdoms. The survey resulted with the participation of 778 participants, and those who viewed the idea of the research through Twitter reached 35878 without clicking on the participation link, which is a considerable number that may reflect the concerns of the majority to participate in this kind of surveys.

Therefore, in the study, we specifically added a question asking the participants if they fear to announce their attitudes towards being a constitutional monarchy as will come later and in detail in the results section of the survey. The main conclusion of this research is the desire of most Gulf citizens to convert to a constitutional monarchy. The percentage of citizens who supported the transformation of their countries to constitutional monarchies similarly to the European kingdoms reached 80.80%.

Research Sample

A total of 778 participants completed all the requirements of the research and were adopted as a test sample. The survey was distributed through Twitter and WhatsApp channels; it began on 20 October 2018 until 25 October 2018. The study included ten main questions in addition to a final open-end question. The total participation was divided into six Gulf countries as follows:

403 participants from Kuwait (51.80%)

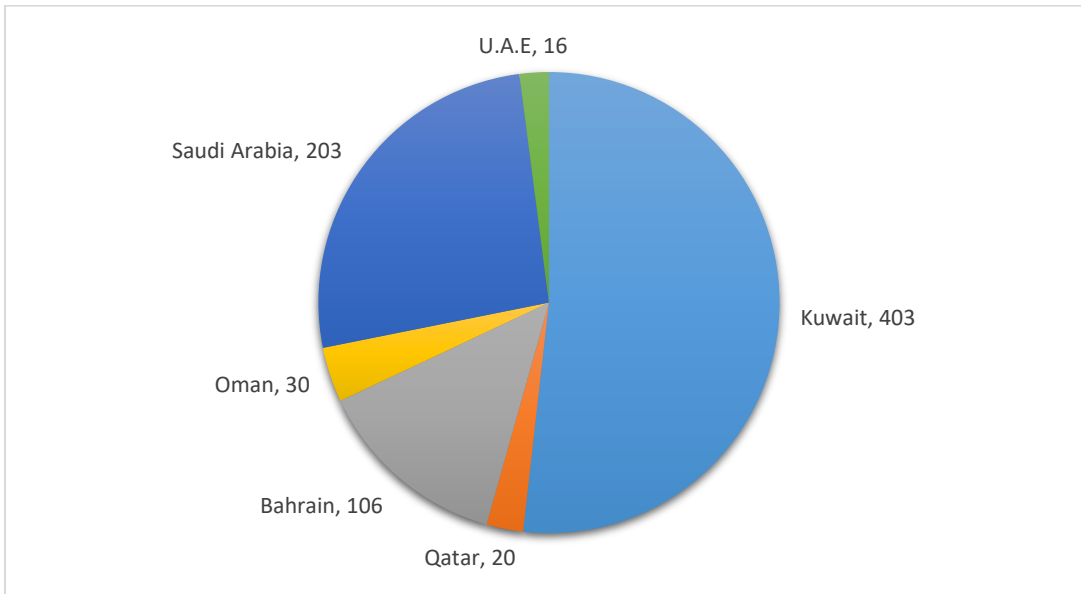
203 participants from Saudi Arabia (26.09%)

106 participants from Bahrain (13.62%)

30 participants from Oman (3.86%)

20 participants from Qatar (2.57%)

16 participants from United Arab Emirates (2.06%)



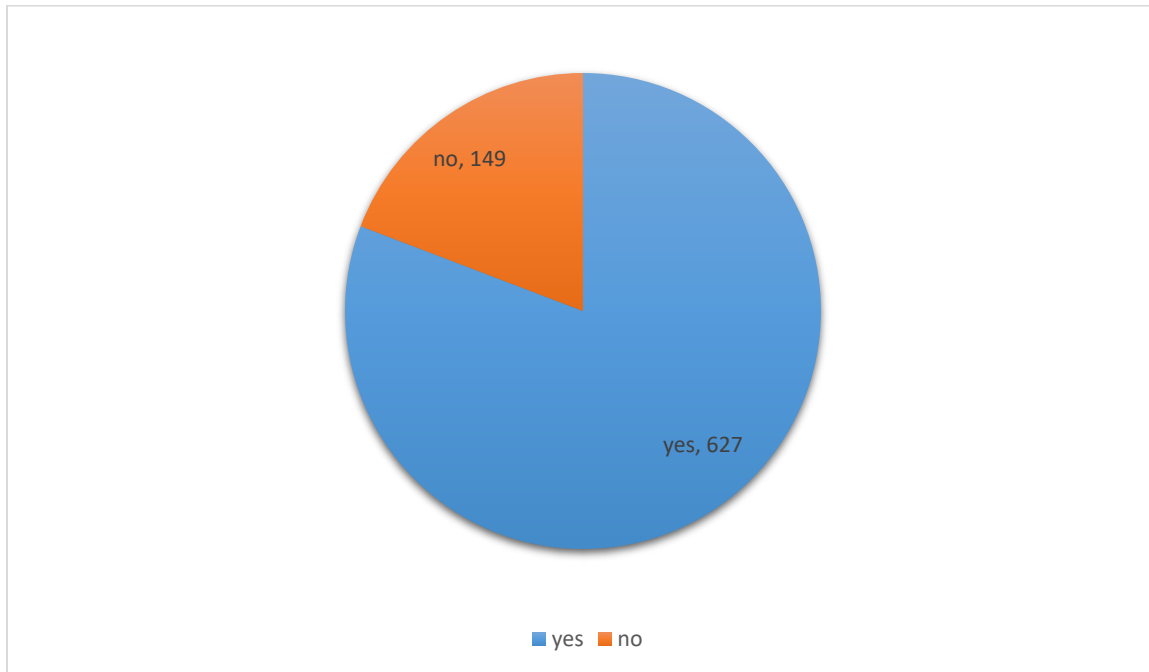
Results

1st Question: Do you support turning the Gulf States into constitutional Kingdoms?

627 participants answered yes (80.80%)

149 participants answered no (19.30%)

This means that there is an overwhelming majority that wants the Gulf States to become constitutional kingdoms similarly to Europe.

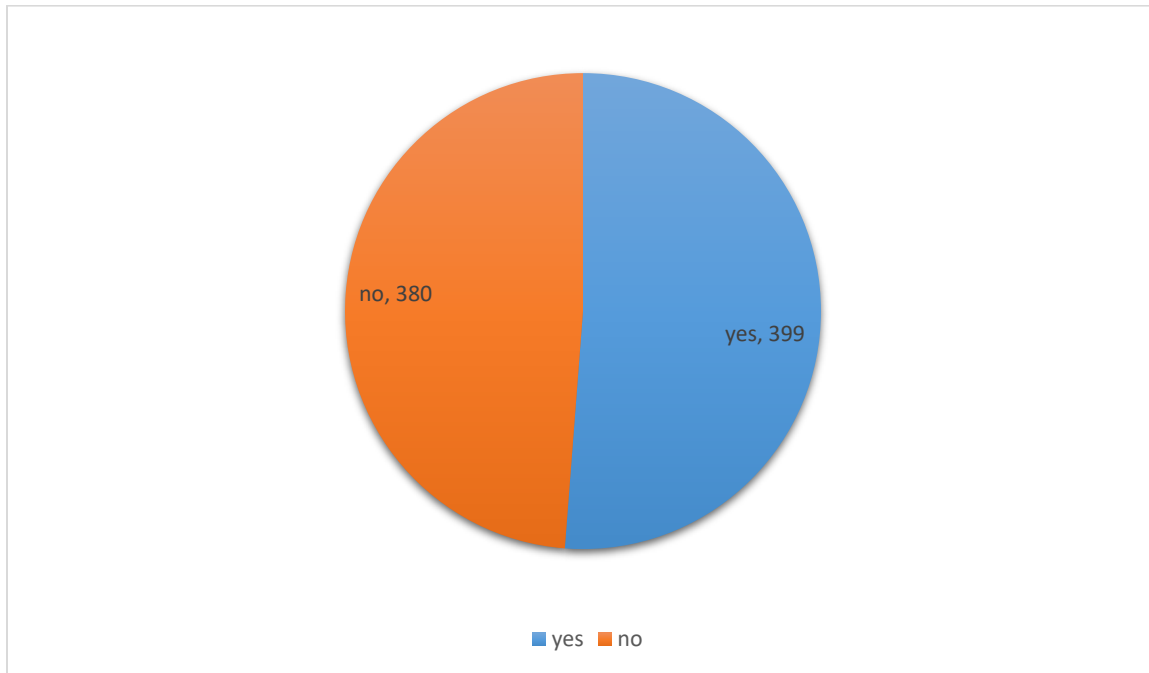


2nd Question: Do you have fears that religious extremists will dominate the authority if Gulf States become a constitutional Kingdom?

399 participants answered yes (51.22%)

380 participants answered no (48.78%)

This reflected a sharp split in the Gulf community concerning confidence in the religious stream. Although the majority of GCC citizens expressed fears about extremist, there is a significant proportion that are not afraid of such streams.

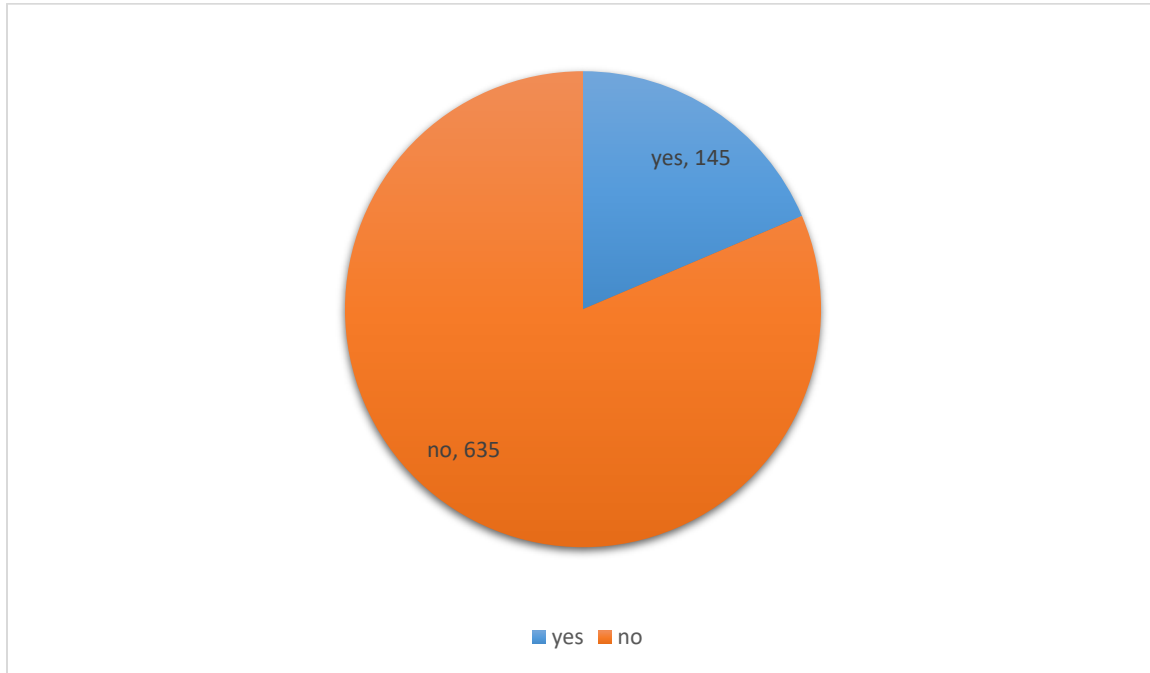


3rd Question: Do you prefer to keep the situation as it is in the Gulf States?

145 participants answered yes (18.59%)

635 participants answered no (81.41%)

These results confirm that the majority do not prefer the continuation of the situation as it is, instead they have a preference to transfer into constitutional monarchies.

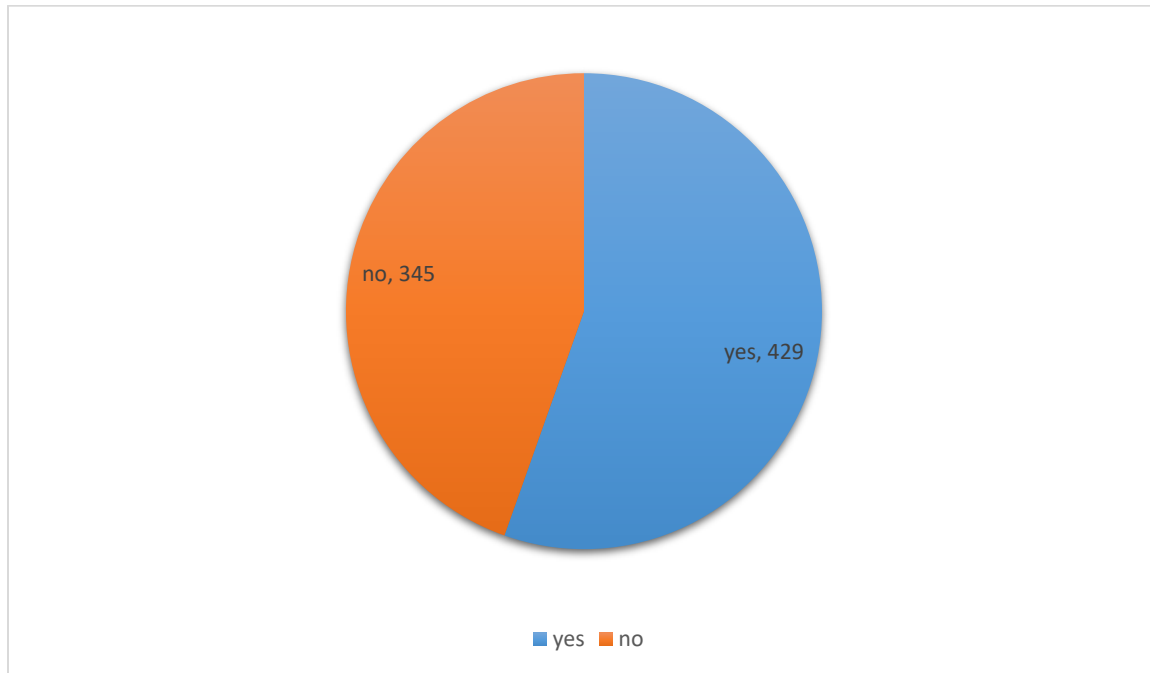


4th Question: Do you expect disturbances in the region if the Gulf States become constitutional kingdoms?

429 participants answered yes (55.43%)

345 participants answered no (44.57%)

The answers reflected a clear division in terms of fear of a conflict in the event of the transformation to constitutional kingdoms.

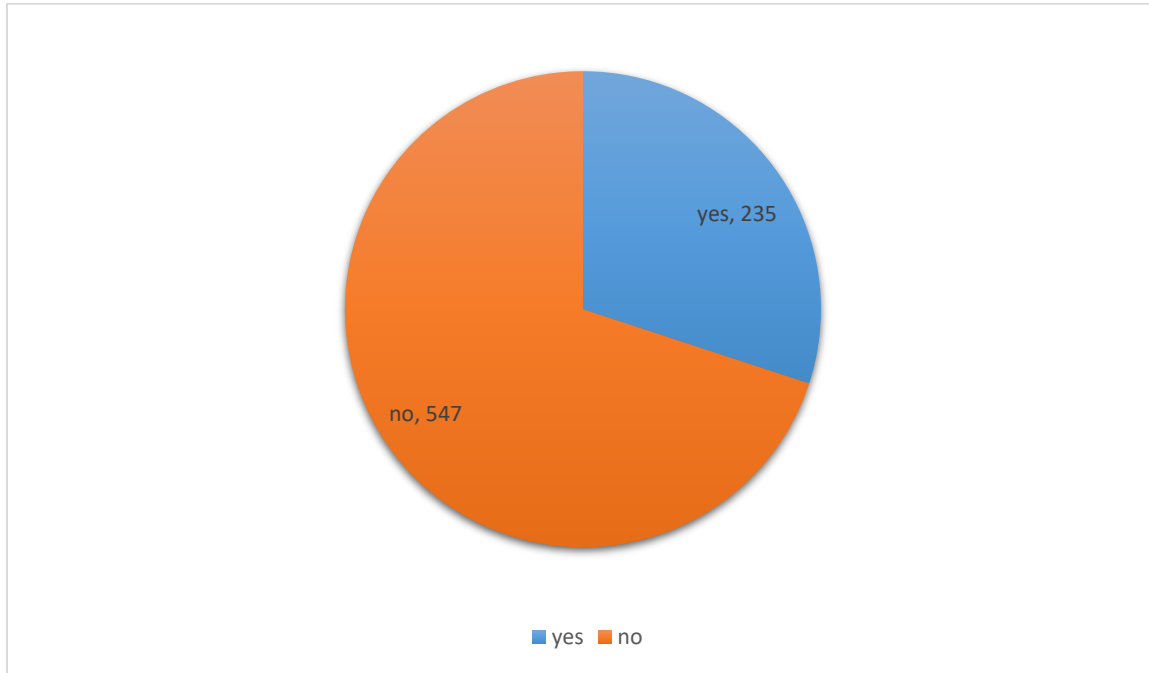


5th Question: Do you expect freedom to become anarchy if Gulf States become constitutional kingdoms?

235 participants answered yes (30.05%)

547 participants answered no (69.95%)

This means that the majority agrees that the transformation of constitutional kingdoms does not say that freedom will turn into anarchy.

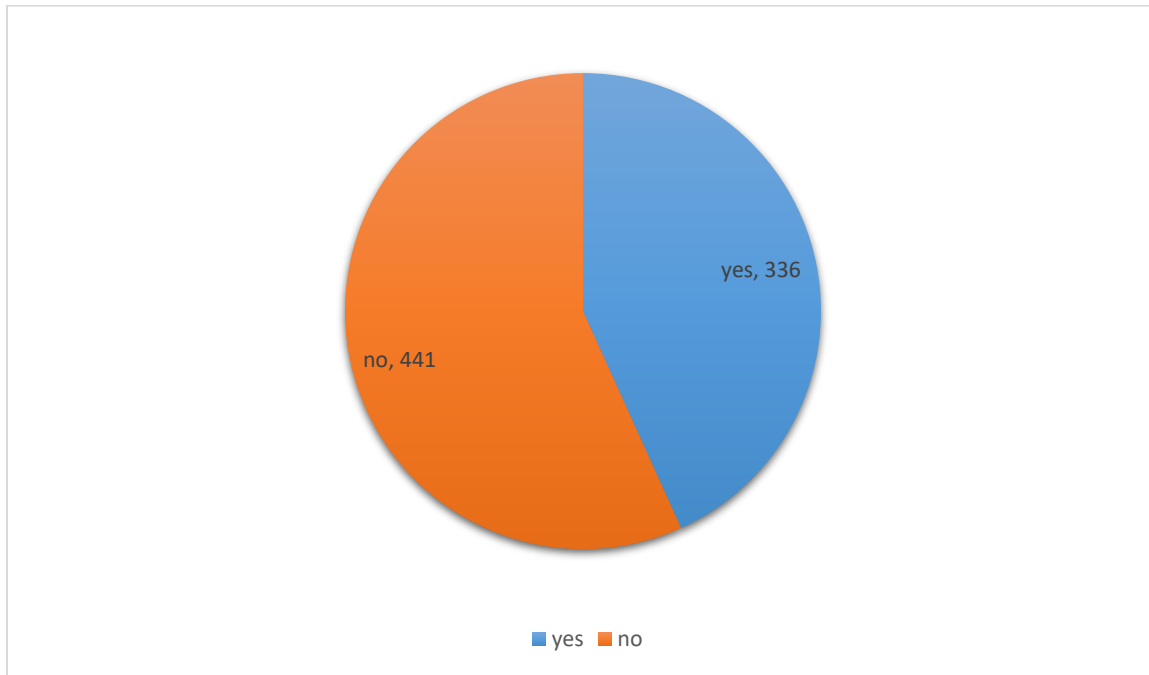


6th Question: If the Gulf States want to turn to constitutional kingdoms, will the West stand against it?

336 participants answered yes (42.24%)

441 participants answered no (56.76%)

The majority of voters do not see the West a threat that will prevent Gulf States from being constitutional kingdoms, however, a large proportion of respondents still believe that the West will stand in the way of this transformation.

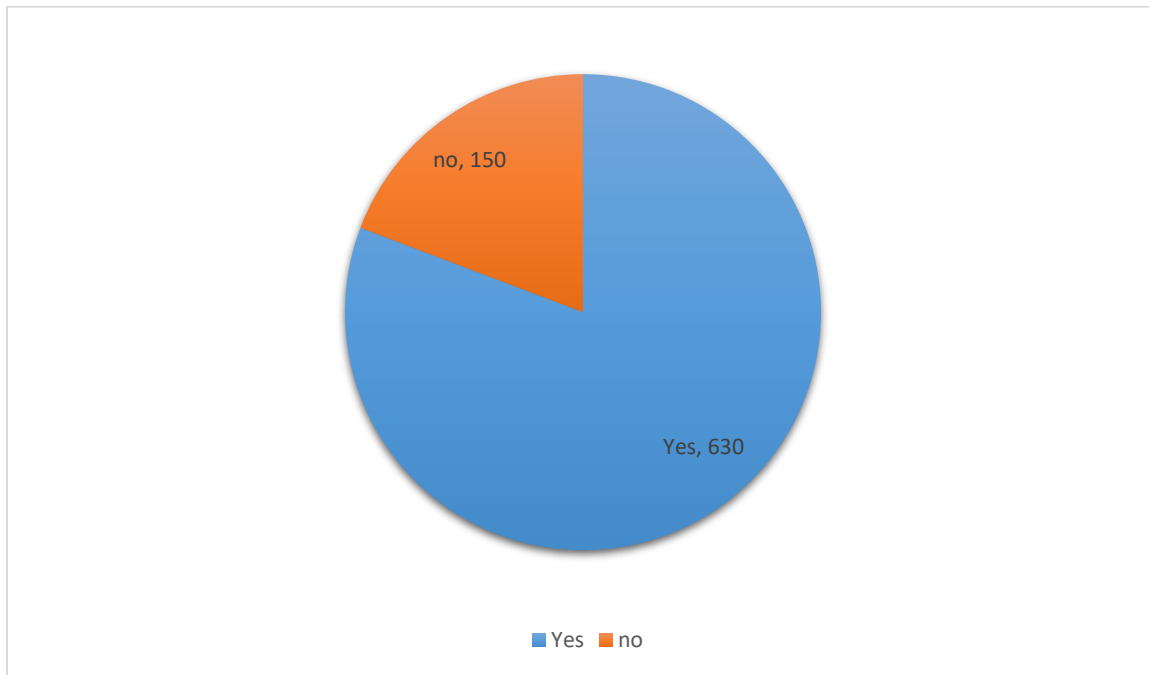


7th Question: In your opinion, will the Gulf societies grow economically, politically, and culturally if they become constitutional kingdoms?

630 participants answered yes (80.77%)

150 participants answered no (19.23%)

This reflects confidence in transferring to constitutional kingdoms. The majority feels that this step will spread freedom and release creative energies at all levels.

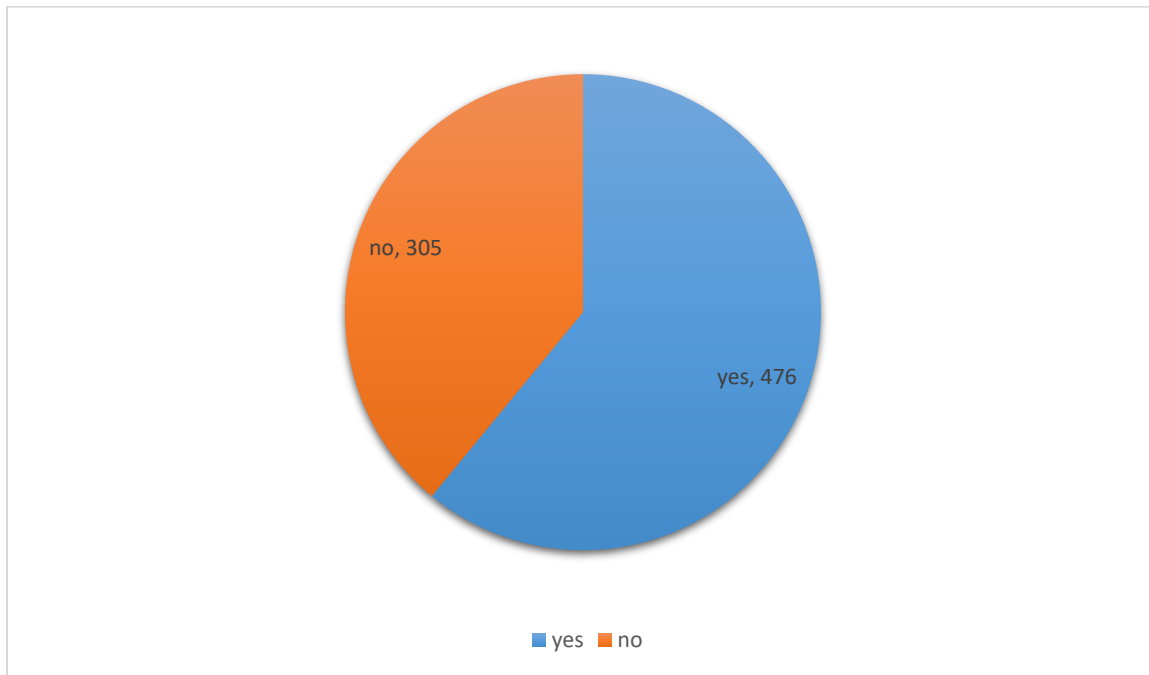


8th Question: Do you fear for your life if you publicly declared your support for constitutional kingdoms in the Gulf States?

476 participants answered yes (60.95%)

305 participants answered no (39.05%)

The answers show that the majority do not feel safe about sharing their opinions about this subject, if they do so they may be subject to considerable harassment.



9th Question: What is the biggest obstacle to the transformation to constitutional kingdoms in the Gulf?

212 participants answered corrupted regimes (22.32%)

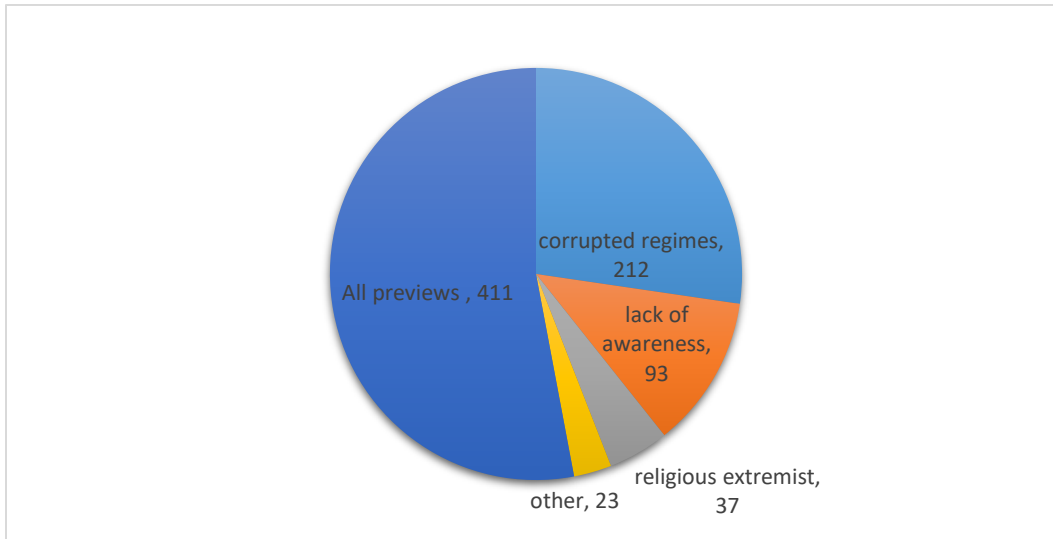
93 participants answered the lack of people's awareness (11.38%)

37 participants answered extremist religious movements (4.77%)

23 participants answered "other" (2.96%).

411 participants answered all the above previews (52.96%)

Most of the participants believe that the corrupt regimes, the lack of awareness, and the religious movements are all obstacles in front of the transformation of the Gulf States to constitutional kingdoms.



10th Question: What is the best governance system?

470 participants answered no alternative to constitutional kingdoms (60.96%)

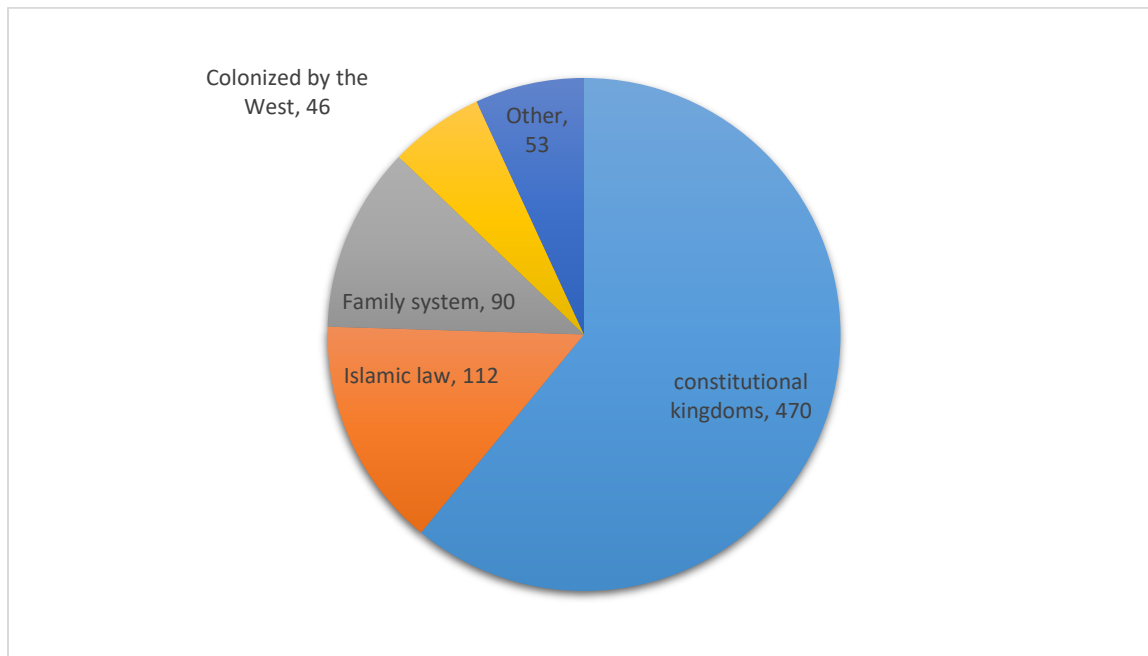
112 participants voted for Islamic law (14.53%)

90 participants voted for keeping the royal family systems (11.67%)

53 participants voted “other” (6.87%)

46 participants are with being colonized by the West (5.97%)

The results are a clear indication that most of the people in the Gulf wish to become a constitutional kingdom despite all the risks that may accompany this transformation.



These results were the total of all Gulf countries combined. The detailed results for each country were different and will be presented in the following sections.

Kuwait

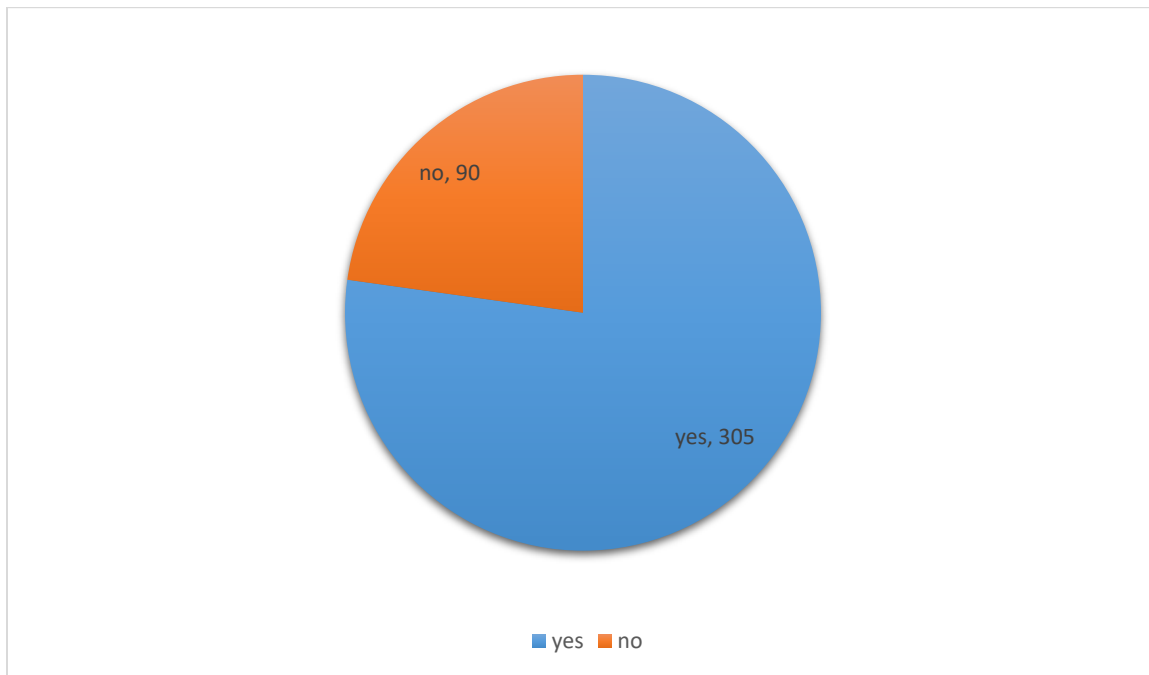
The State of Kuwait came in the first place in participation with 403 participants.

1st Question: Do you support the transformation of the Gulf States into constitutional kingdoms?

305 participants answered yes (77.22%)

90 participants answered no (22.78%)

A high percentage answered with yes. The little bit of freedom that Kuwaitis enjoy may have resulted in this amount of people answering this way.

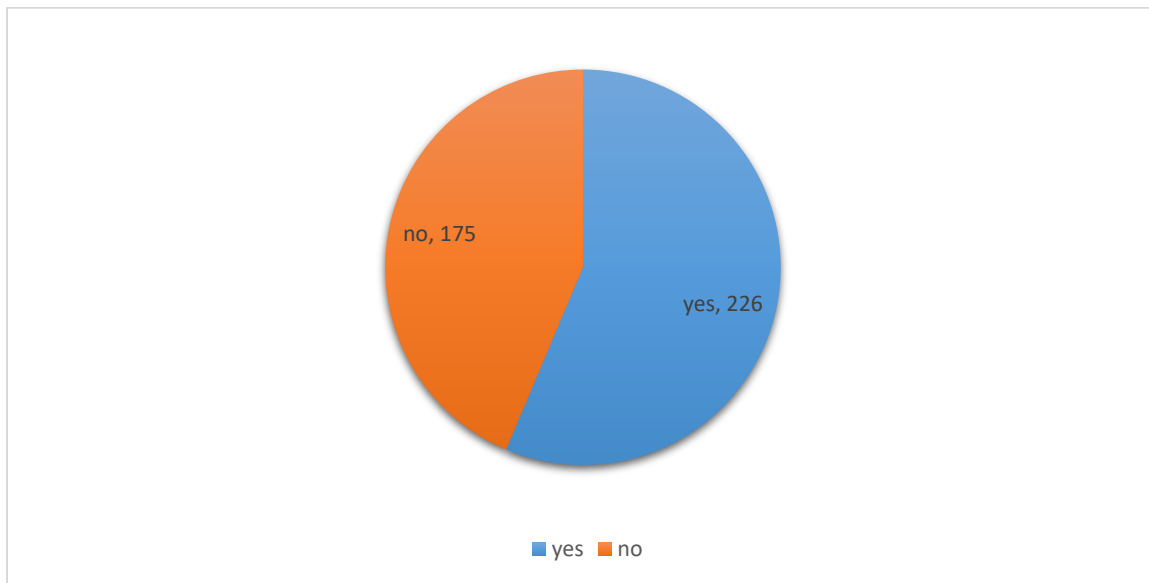


2nd Question: Do you have fears that religious extremists will dominate the authority if Gulf States become a constitutional Kingdom?

226 participants answered yes (56.36%)

175 participants answered no (43.64%).

The results reflect a real fear of religious currents, where the majority fears that religious currents will dominate the authority, which is a barrier to the development of society. The fact that the Kuwaiti authority has enabled Islamists to control the country in favour of protecting them even over the expense of crushing civilian forces may be one of the reasons why participants answered in such a way.

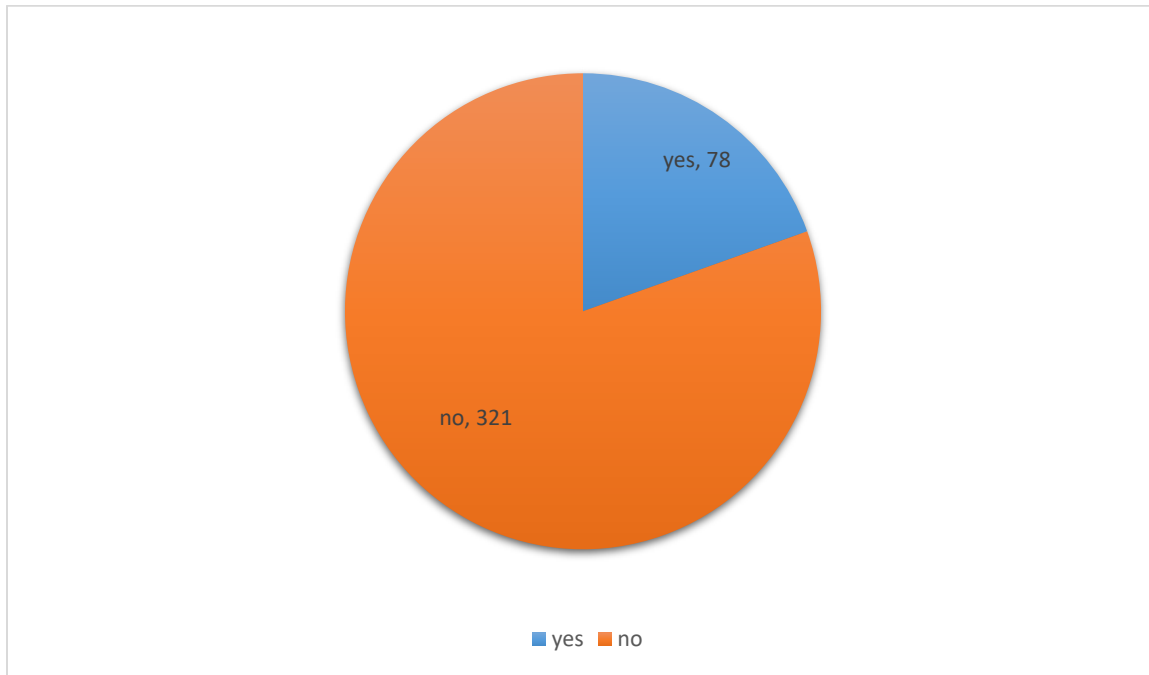


3rd Question: Do you prefer to keep the current situation as it is?

78 participants answered yes (19.55%)

321 participants answered no (80.45%)

This shows the great majority's desire for change towards constitutional kingdoms.

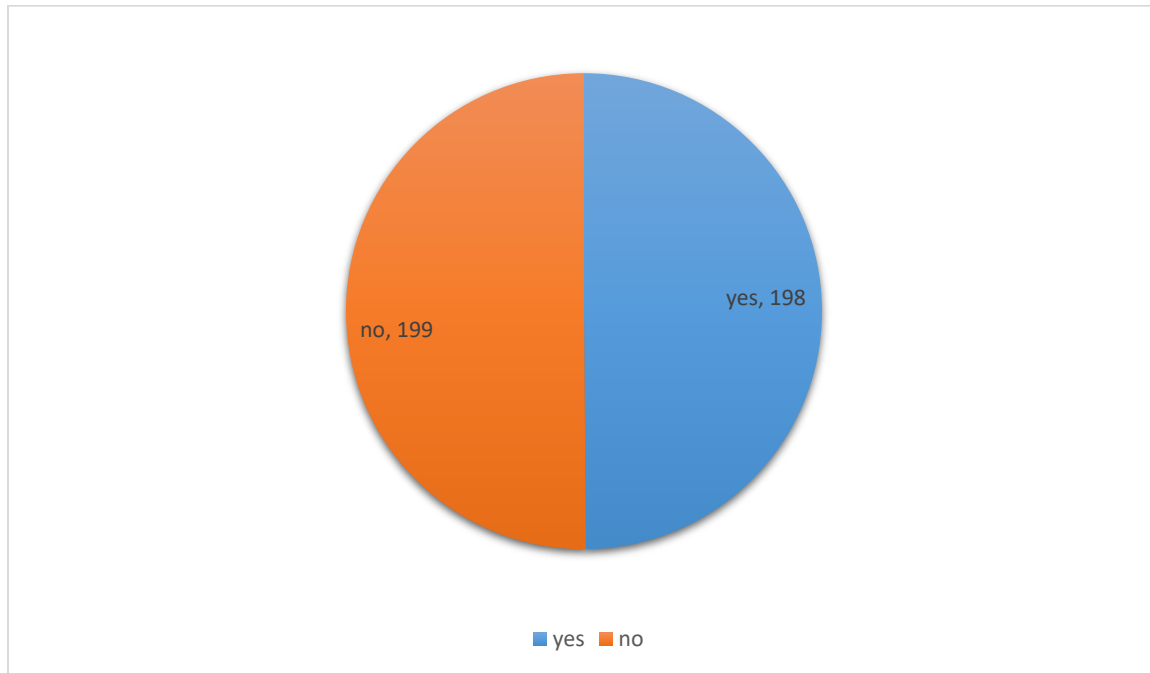


4th Question: Do you expect disturbances in the region if the Gulf States become constitutional kingdoms?

198 participants answered yes (49.87%)

199 participants answered no (50.13%)

This shows that people were divided in half concerning disturbances in the region if Kuwait converted to a constitutional kingdom.

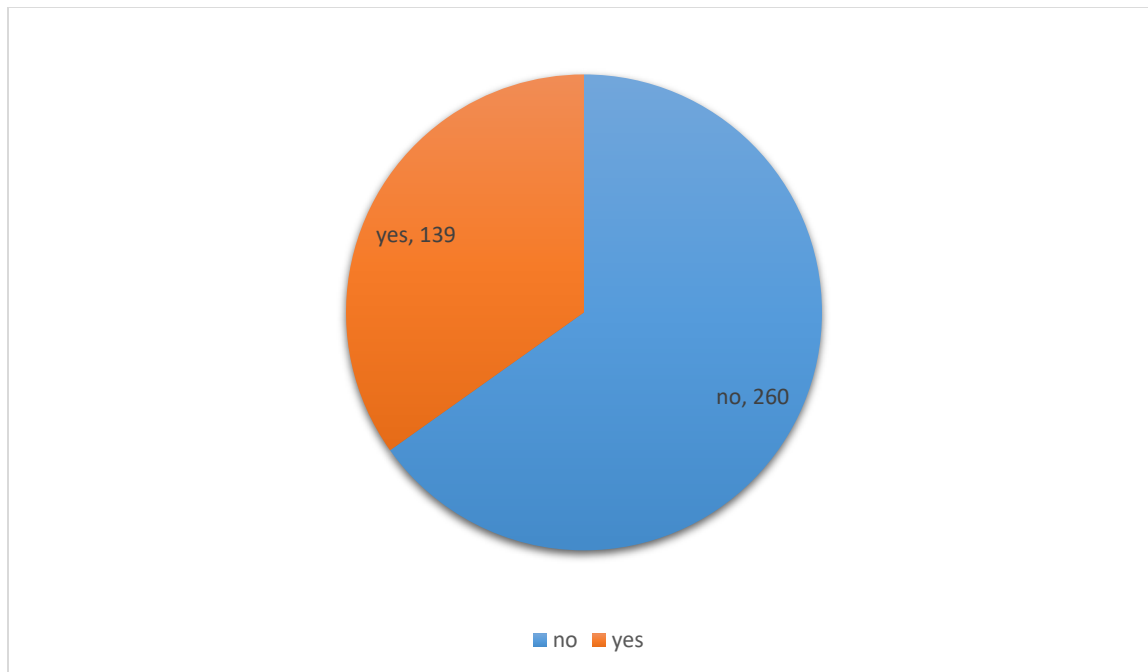


5th Question: Do you expect freedom to become anarchy if Gulf States become constitutional kingdoms?

139 participants answered yes (38.84%)

260 participants answered no (56.16%)

The results showed that the majority does not believe that the shift to constitutional kingdoms will lead to anarchy, while more than a third thought it could turn in this way.

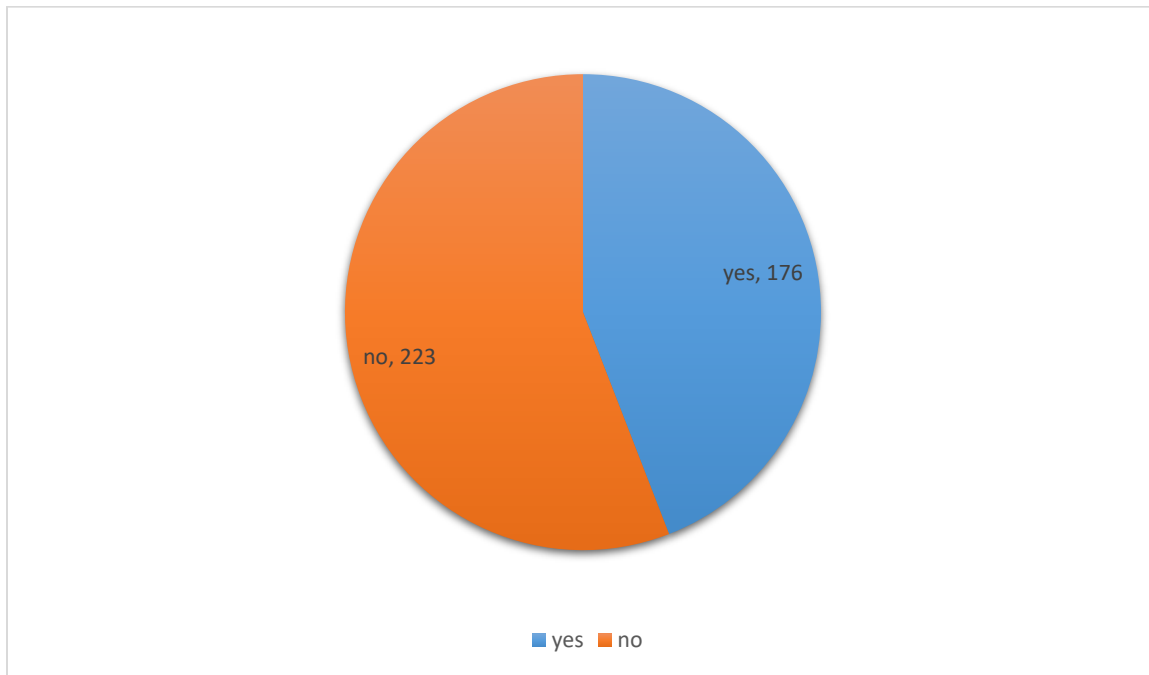


6th Question: If the Gulf States want to turn to constitutional kingdoms, will the West stand against it?

176 participants answered yes (44.11%)

223 participants answered no (55.89%)

The results support the view that most Kuwaitis do not fear the intervention of the West in the case of the transformation to constitutional kingdoms, but also a large proportion do not trust them.

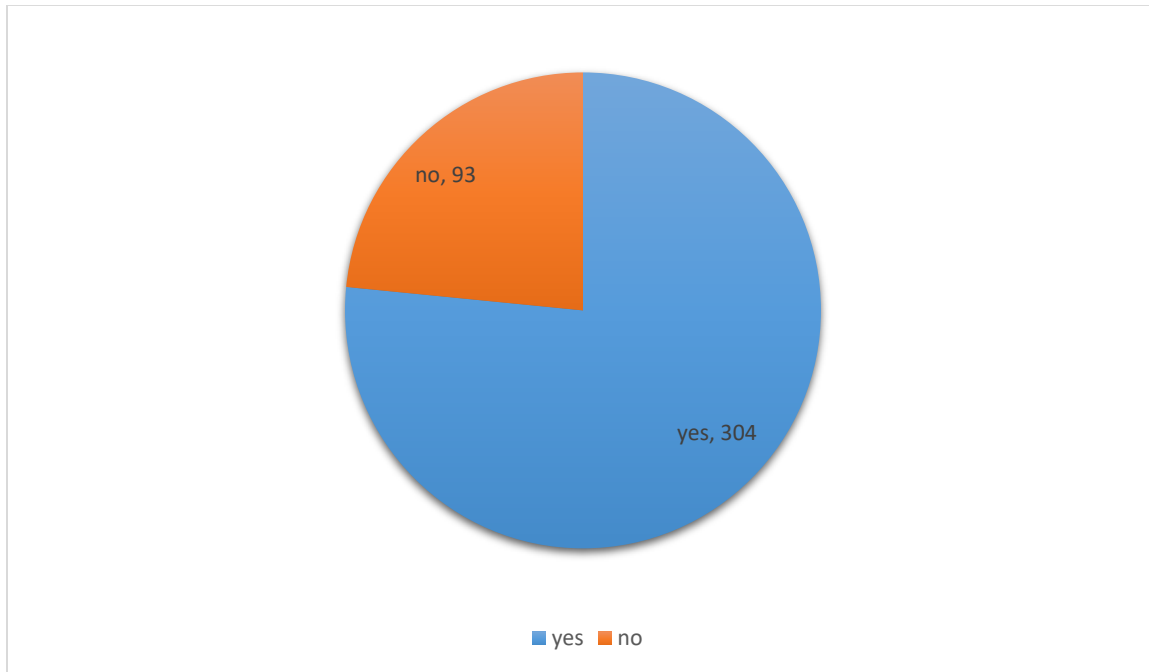


7th Question: In your opinion, will the Gulf societies grow economically, politically, and culturally if they become constitutional kingdoms?

304 participants answered yes (76.57%)

93 participants answered no (23.43%)

The answers confirm that most Kuwaitis are not happy with the current system. They believe that their country will develop on all levels once they transfer to a constitutional kingdom.

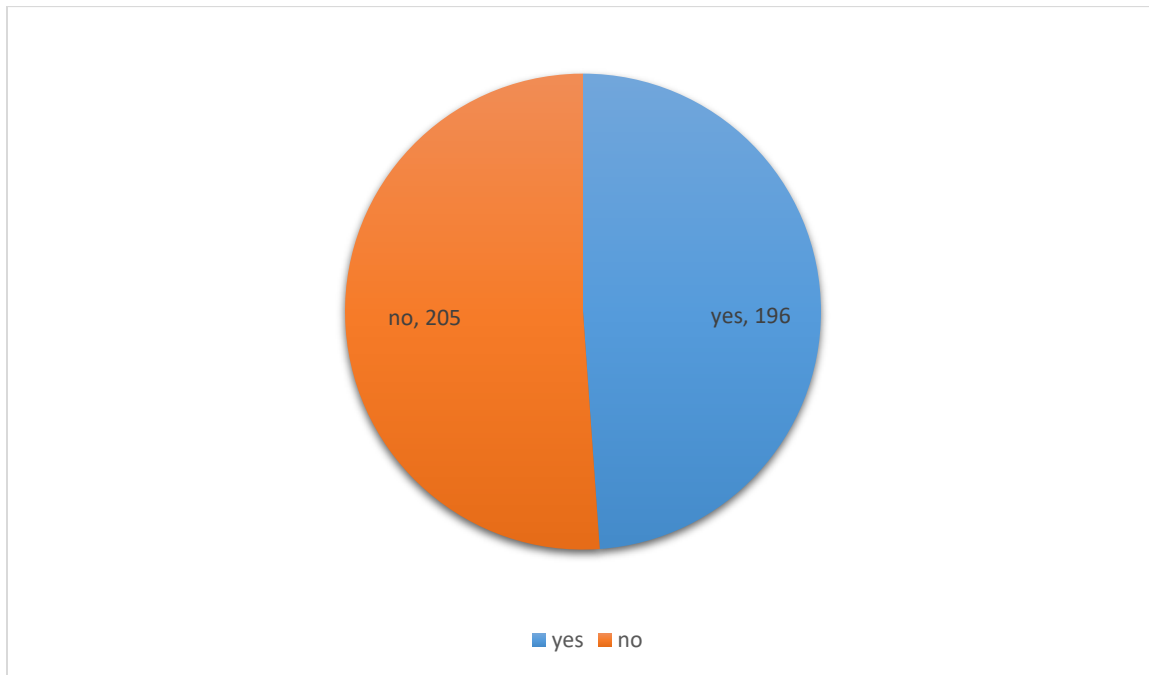


8th Question: Do you fear for your life if you publicly declared your support for constitutional kingdoms in the Gulf States?

196 participants answered yes (48.88%)

205 participants answered no (51.12%)

The large number of participants who answered yes to this question is a bit surprising considering Kuwait is a civil state and has a constitution that is 60 years old. This indicator may be a bad sign for Kuwait and shows that the country is currently lacking freedom of speech.



9th Question: What is the biggest obstacle to the transformation of the Gulf States to constitutional kingdoms?

99 participants answered corrupted regimes (24.87%)

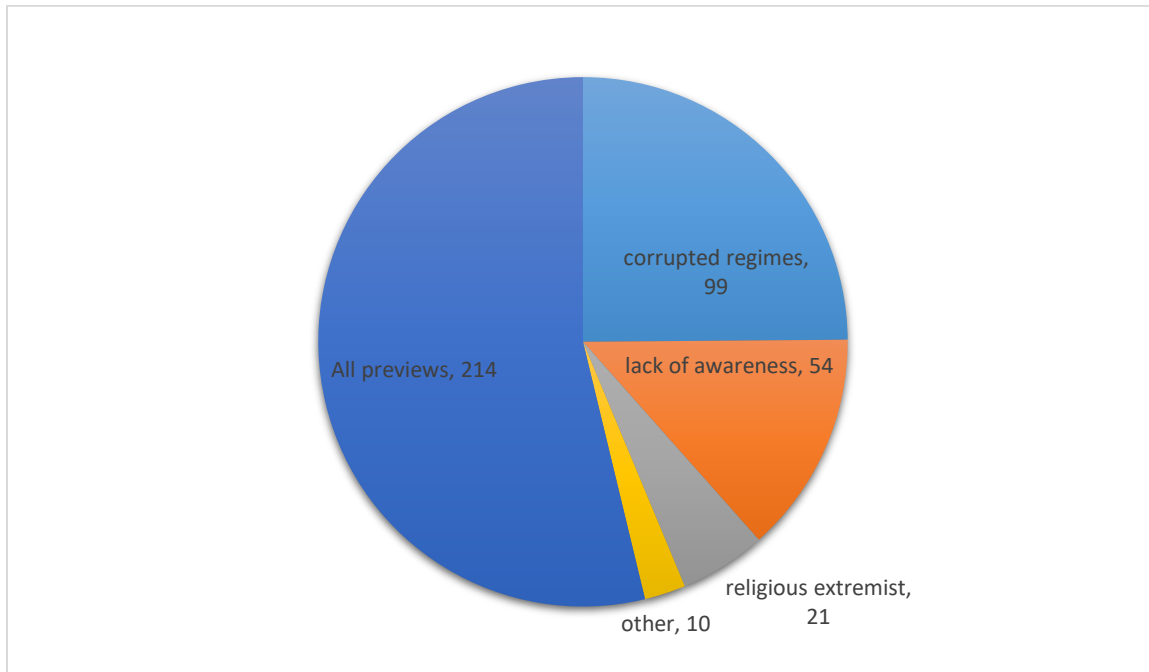
54 participants answered lack of people's awareness (13.57%)

21 participants answered religious extremist (5.28%)

10 participants answered "other" (2.51%)

214 participants answered all the above (53.77%)

The results show that the biggest obstacle in front of the transformation to constitutional kingdoms include all the previous reasons.



10th Question: What is the best governance system?

232 participants answered no alternative to constitutional kingdoms (59.34%)

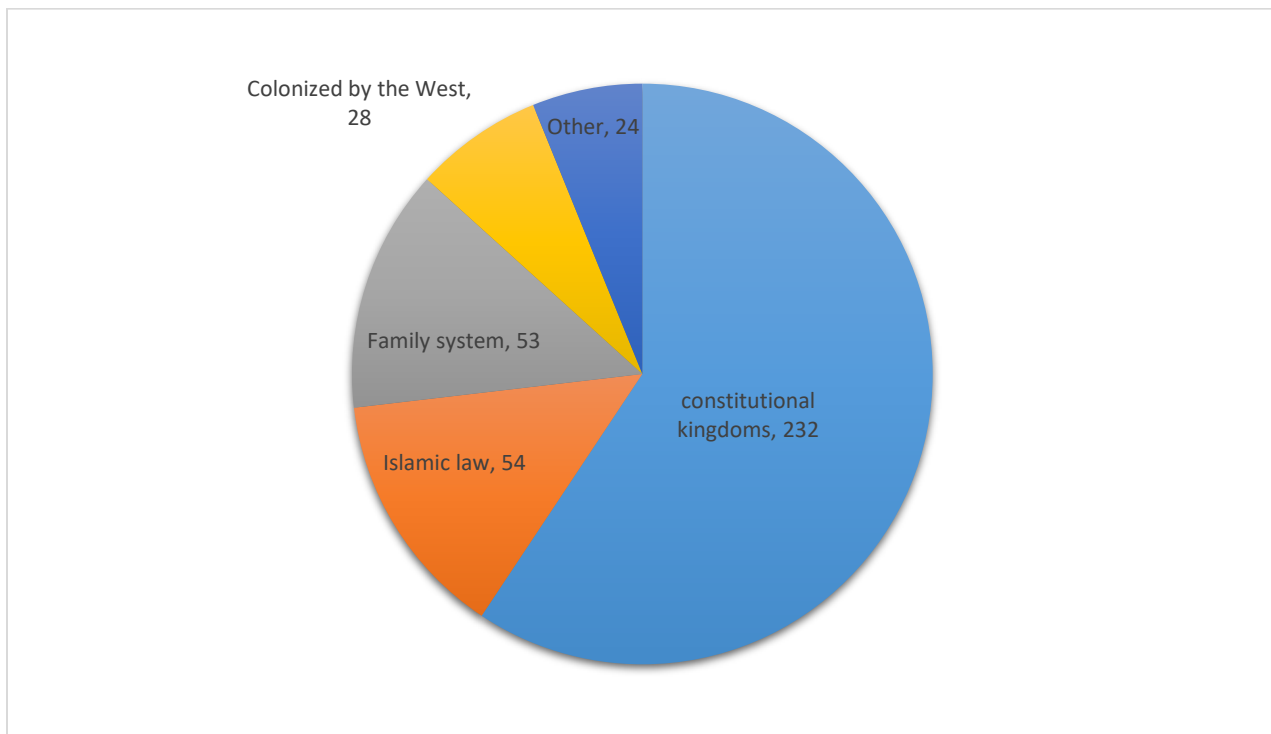
54 participants voted for Islamic law (13.81%)

53 participants voted for keeping royal family systems (13.55%)

28 participants voted for being colonized by the West (7.16%)

24 participants voted “other” (6.14%)

The majority wants to transfer to constitutional kingdoms.



Saudi Arabia

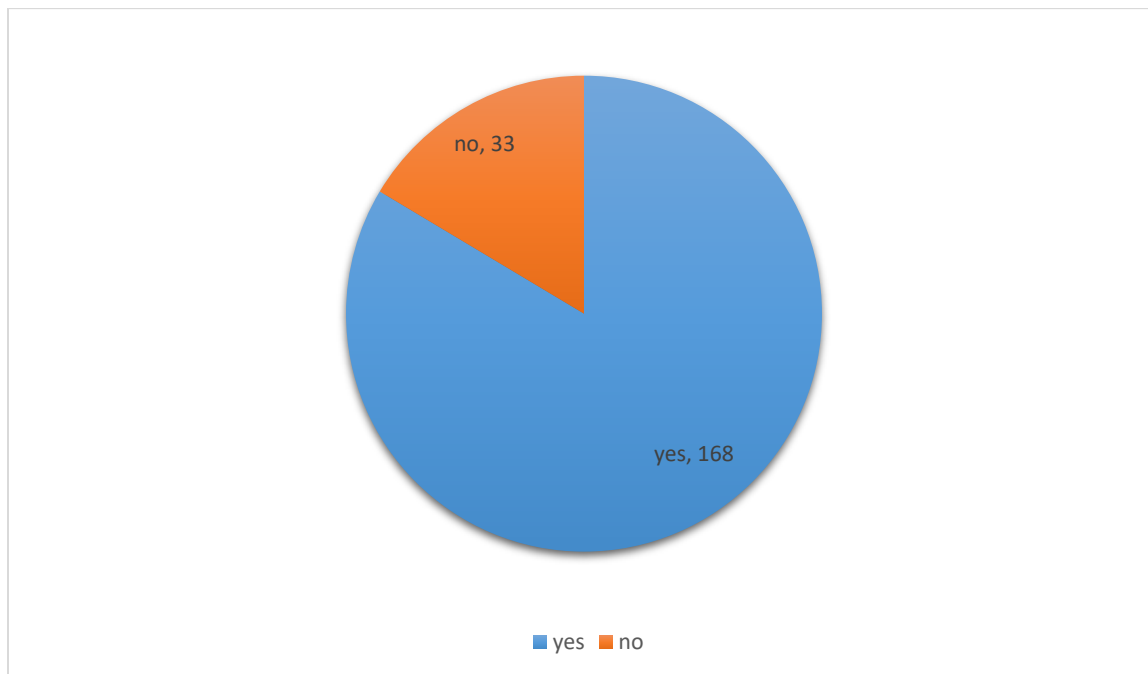
203 participants joined from Saudi Arabia, and the Kingdom came in second place in the number of participants. This number is quite impressive if we put into account the susceptible situation in Saudi Arabia.

1st Question: Do you support the transformation of the Gulf States into constitutional kingdoms?

168 participants answered yes (83.58%)

33 participants answered no (16.42%)

This result reflects a great Saudi desire for a constitutional kingdom regardless of the brutal regime.

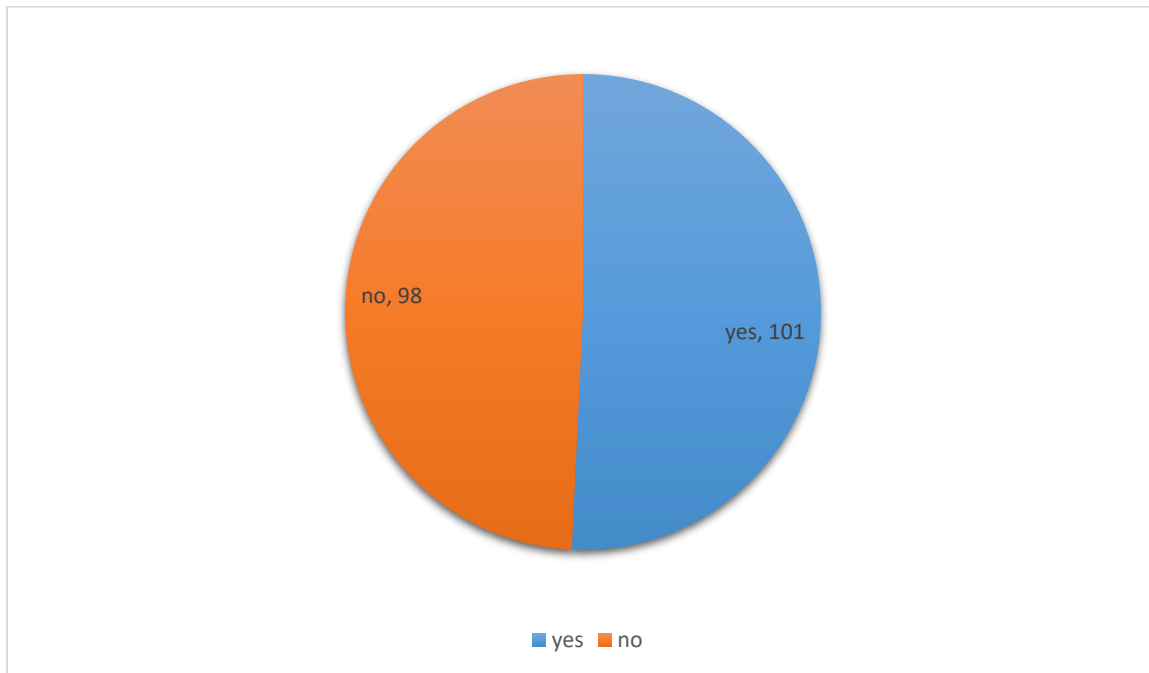


2nd Question: Do you have fears that religious extremists will dominate the authority if Gulf States become a constitutional Kingdom?

101 participants answered yes (50.75%)

98 participants answered no (49.25%).

The majority of those who voted expressed their fear that the religious movement would control the authority, but the other half of the sample had no such concern. The fear of the religious currents in Saudi Arabia comes from their experience, which was based on an alliance between the fundamentalists and authority.

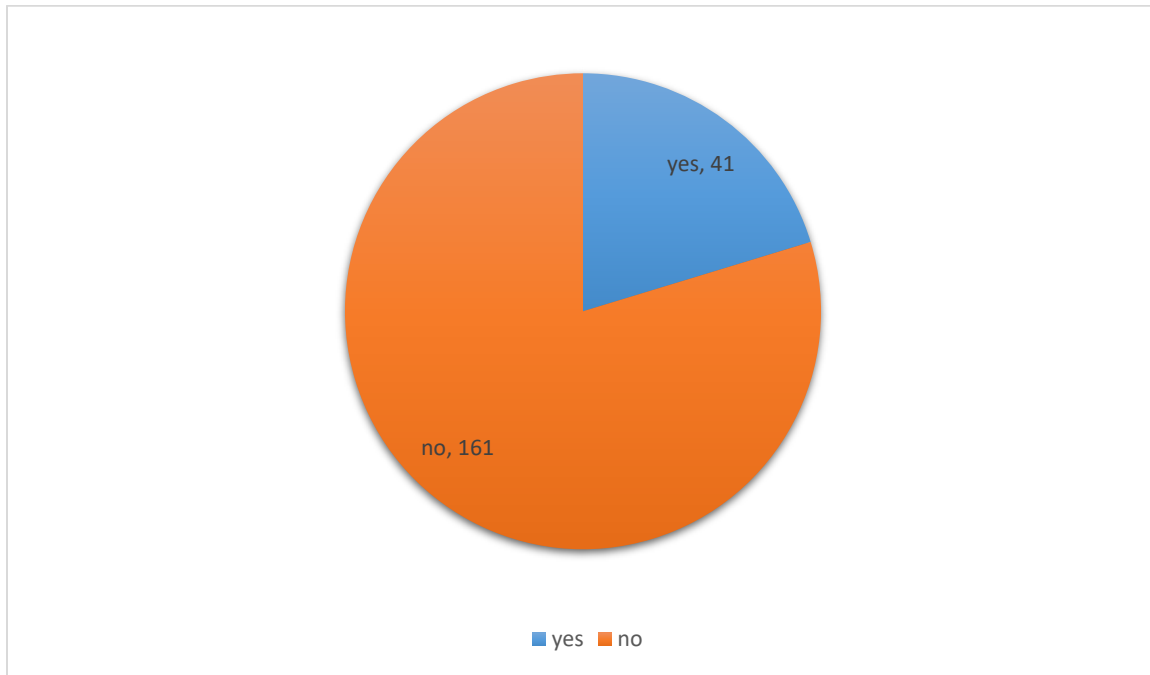


3rd Question: Do you prefer to keep the current situation as it is?

41 participants answered yes (20.30%)

161 participants answered no (70.79%)

This shows the great majority's desire for change towards constitutional kingdoms.

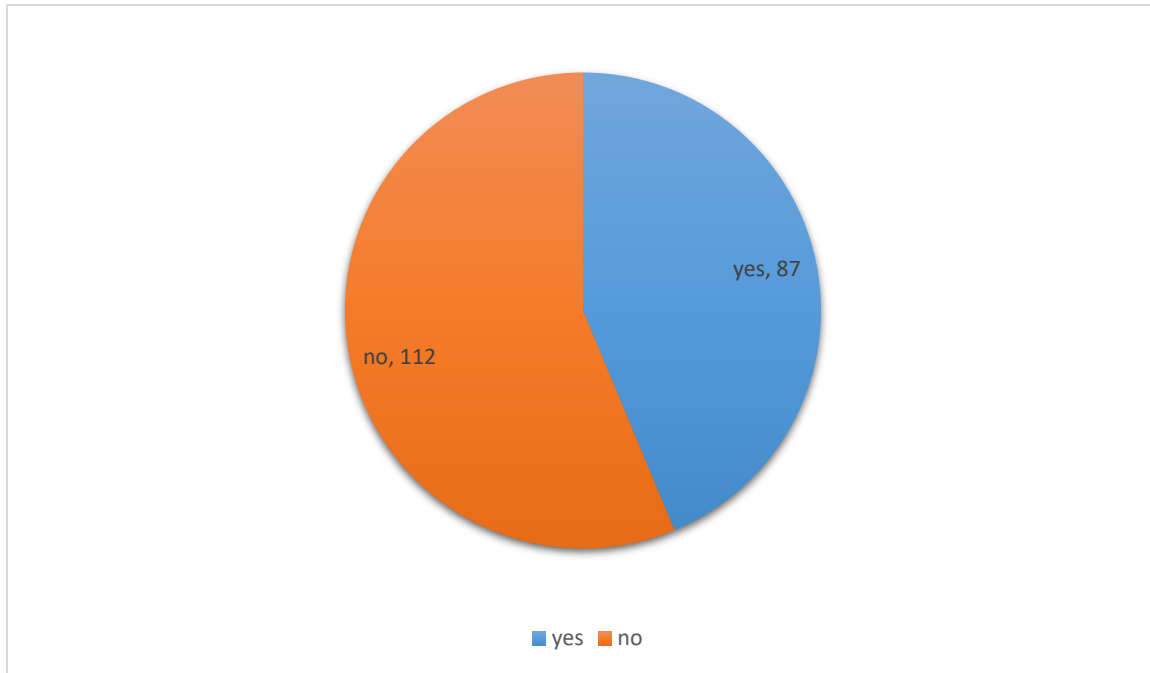


4th Question: Do you expect disturbances in the region if the Gulf States become constitutional kingdoms?

87 participants answered yes (43.72%)

112 participants answered no (56.28%)

This shows that people were divided in nearly half concerning disturbances in the region if Saudi converted to a constitutional kingdom.

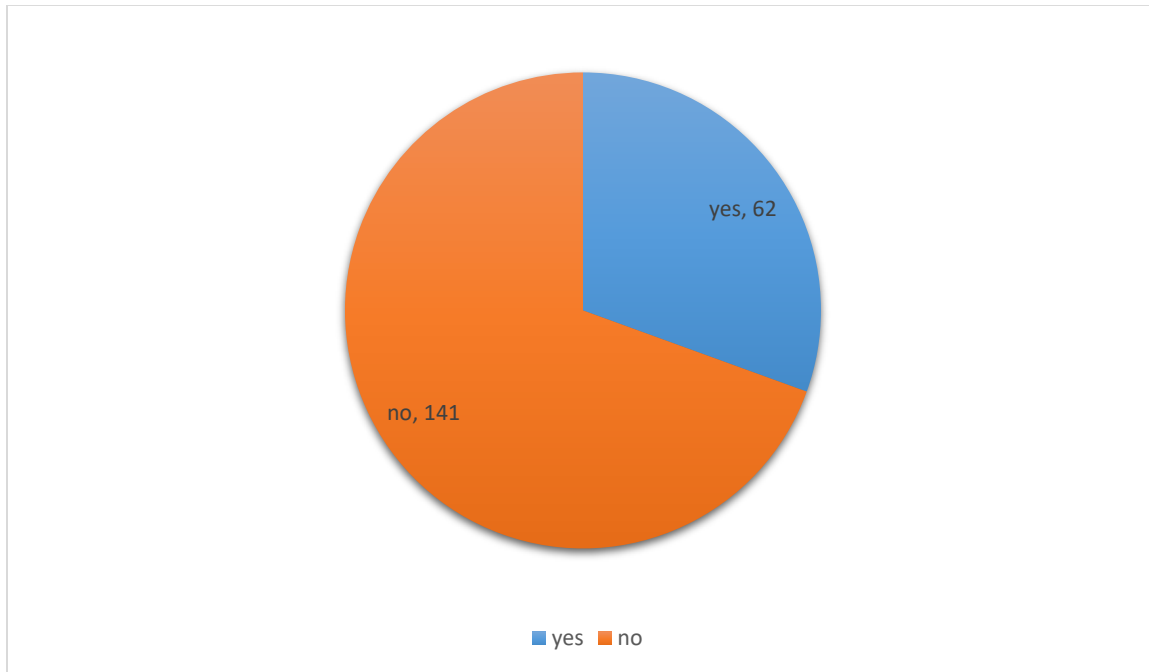


5th Question: Do you expect freedom to become anarchy if Gulf States become constitutional kingdoms?

62 participants answered yes (30.54%)

141 participants answered no (69.46%)

The results showed that the majority does not believe that the shift to constitutional kingdoms will lead to anarchy, while more than a third thought it could turn in this way.

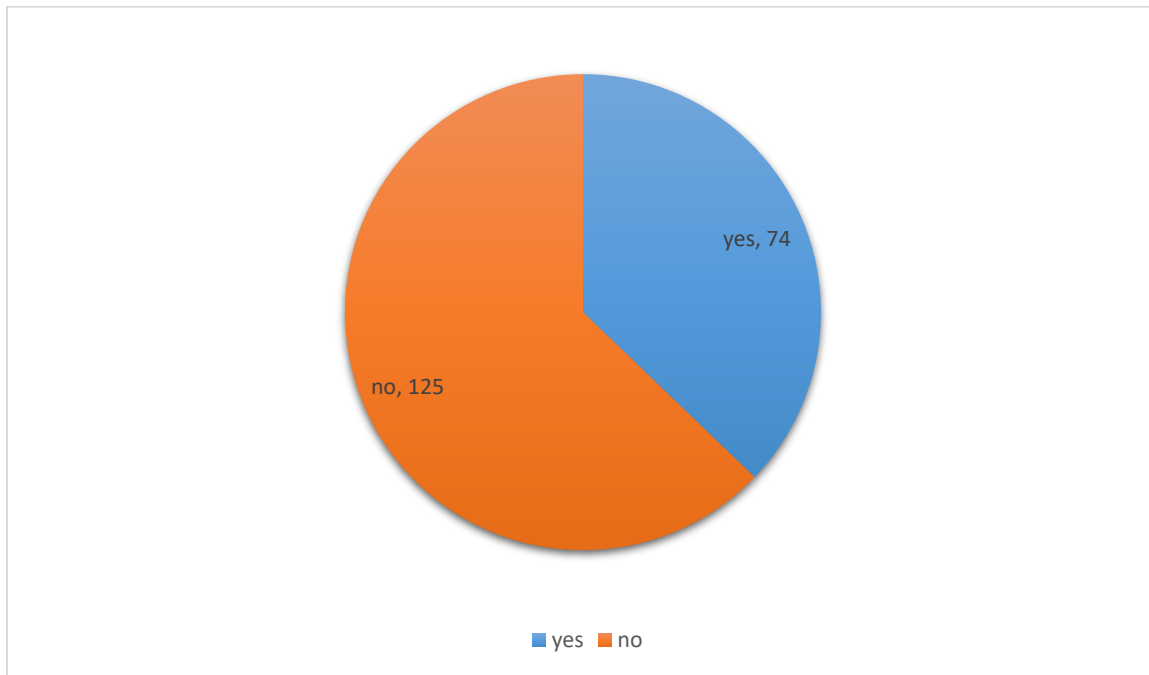


6th Question: If the Gulf States want to turn to constitutional kingdoms, will the West stand against it?

74 participants answered yes (37.19%)

125 participants answered no (62.81%)

The results support the view that most Saudi's do not fear the intervention of the West in the case of the transformation to constitutional kingdoms, but also a large proportion do not trust them.

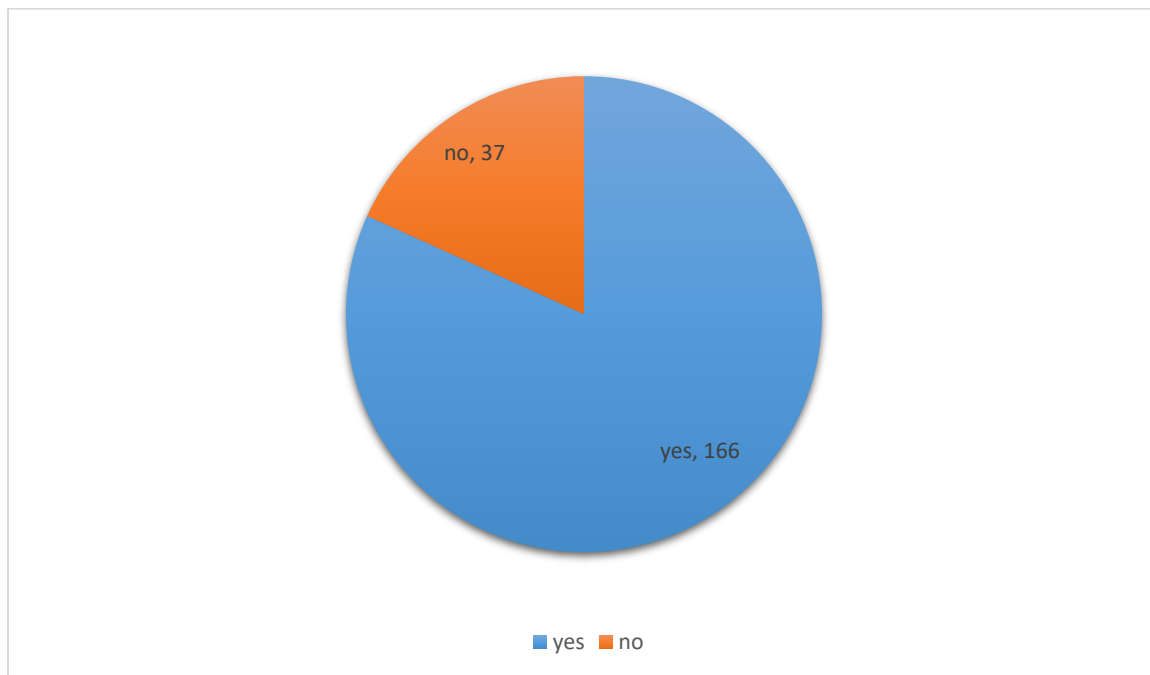


7th Question: In your opinion, will the Gulf societies grow economically, politically, and culturally if they become constitutional kingdoms?

166 participants answered yes (81.77%)

37 participants answered no (18.23%)

The answers confirm that most Saudi's are not happy with the current system. They believe that their country will develop on all levels once they transfer to a constitutional kingdom.

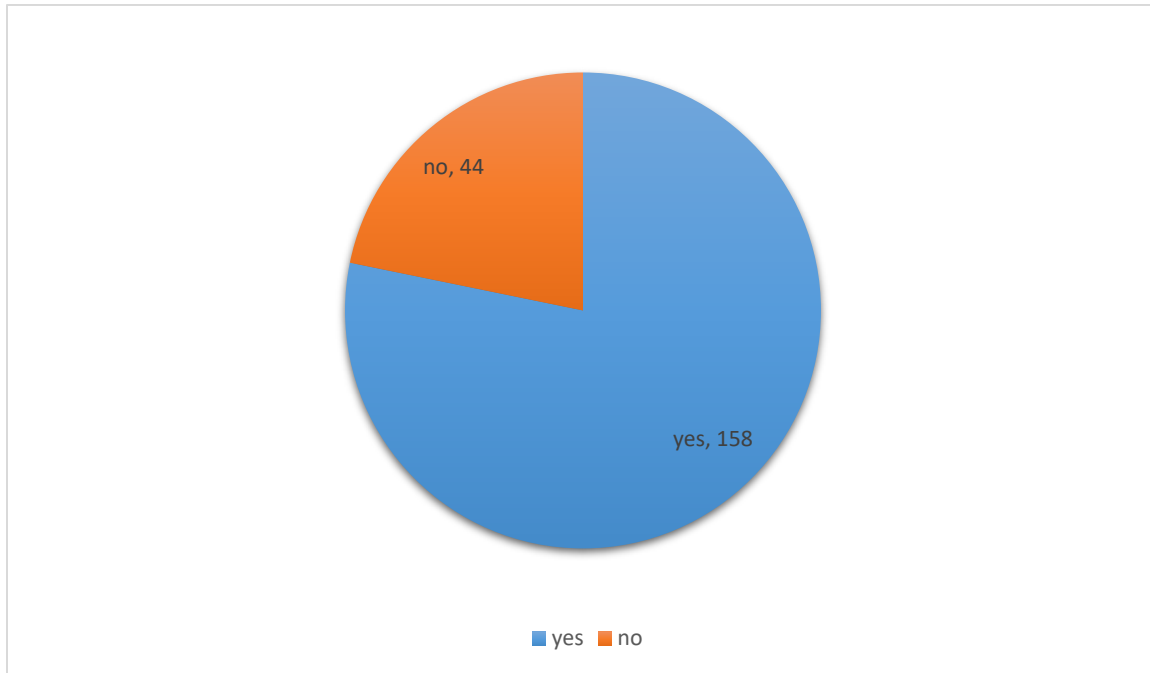


8th Question: Do you fear for your life if you publicly declared your support for constitutional kingdoms in the Gulf States?

158 participants answered yes (78.22%)

44 participants answered no (21.78%)

The large number of participants who answered yes to this question reflects the fear the Saudi society live in regarding expressing their opinions.



9th Question: What is the biggest obstacle to the transformation of the Gulf States to constitutional kingdoms?

50 participants answered corrupted regimes (24.88%)

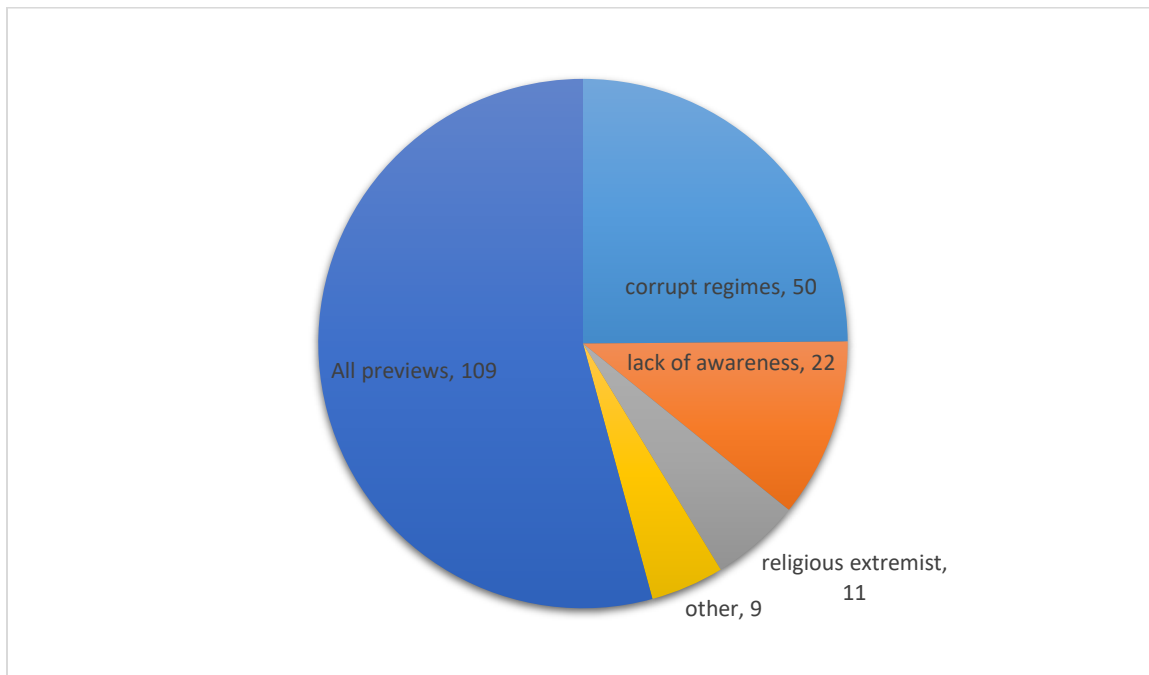
22 participants answered lack of people's awareness (10.95%)

11 participants answered religious extremist (5.47%)

9 participants answered "other" (4.48%)

109 participants answered all the above (54.23%)

The results show that the biggest obstacle in front of the transformation to constitutional kingdoms include all the previous reasons.



10th Question: What is the best governance system?

116 participants answered no alternative to constitutional kingdoms (58.00%)

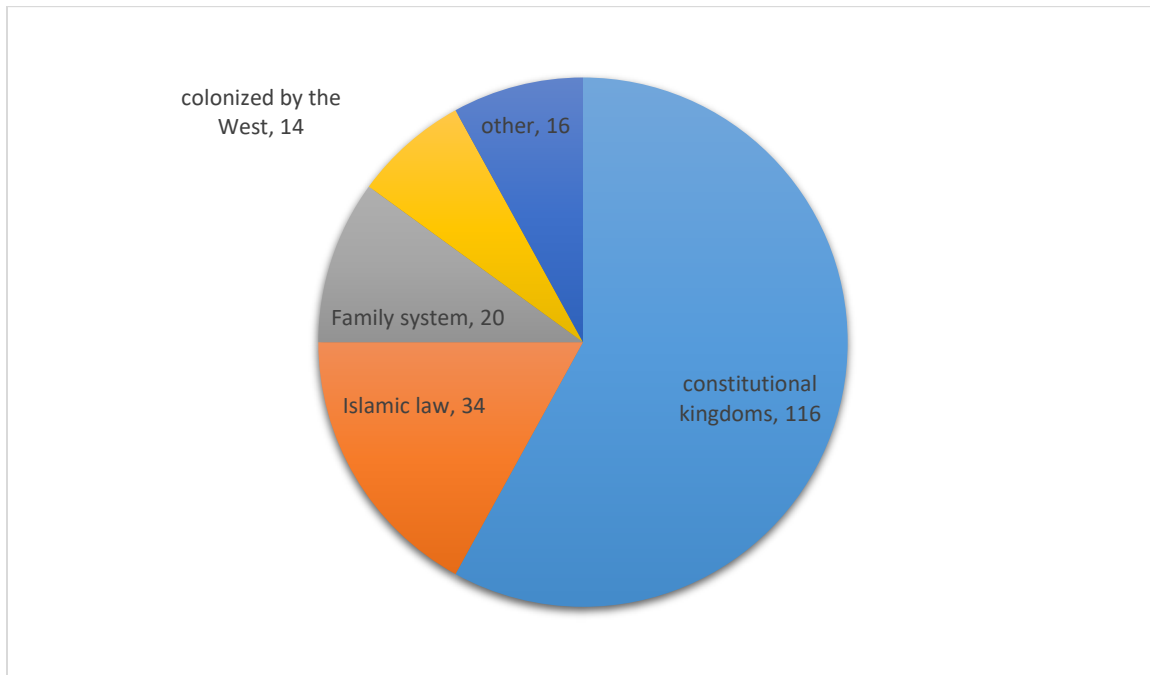
34 participants voted for Islamic law (17.00%)

20 participants voted for keeping royal family systems (10.00%)

16 participants voted “other” (8.00%)

14 participants voted for being colonized by the West (7.00%)

The majority wants to transfer to constitutional kingdoms.



Bahrain

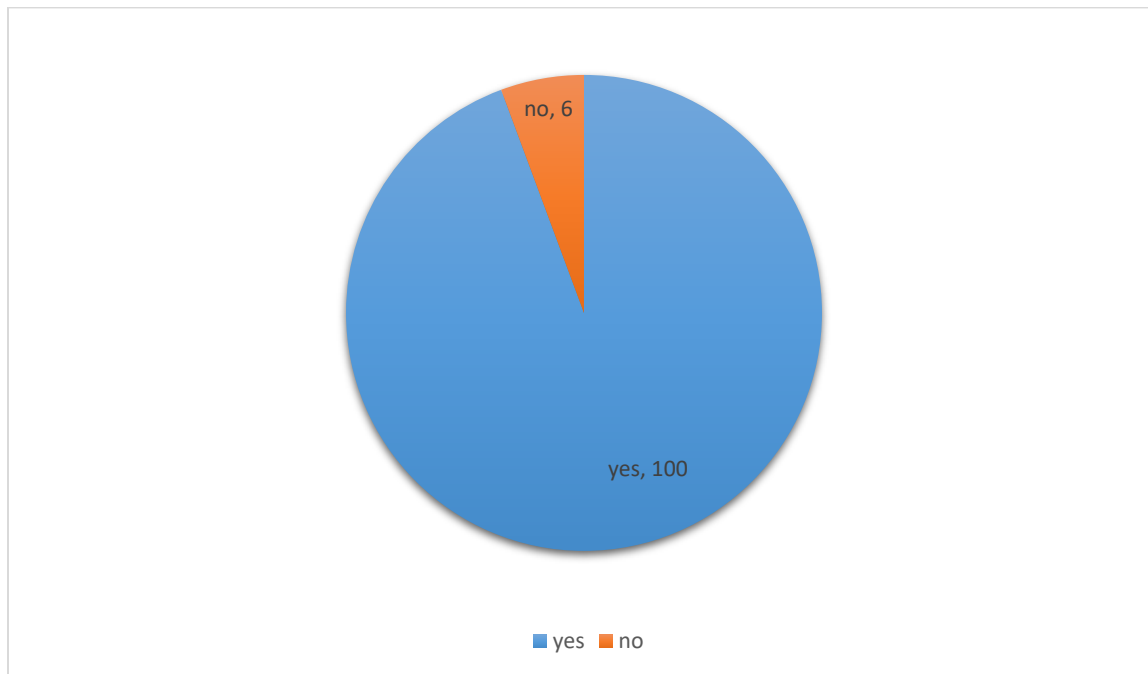
The Kingdom of Bahrain came in third place in the number of participants, where 106 completed the survey.

1st Question: Do you support the transformation of the Gulf States into constitutional kingdoms?

100 participants answered yes (94.34%)

6 participants answered no (5.66%)

This is a sweeping percentage for those wishing to turn the Kingdom of Bahrain into a real constitutional kingdom and not as it is currently governed by the ruling family.

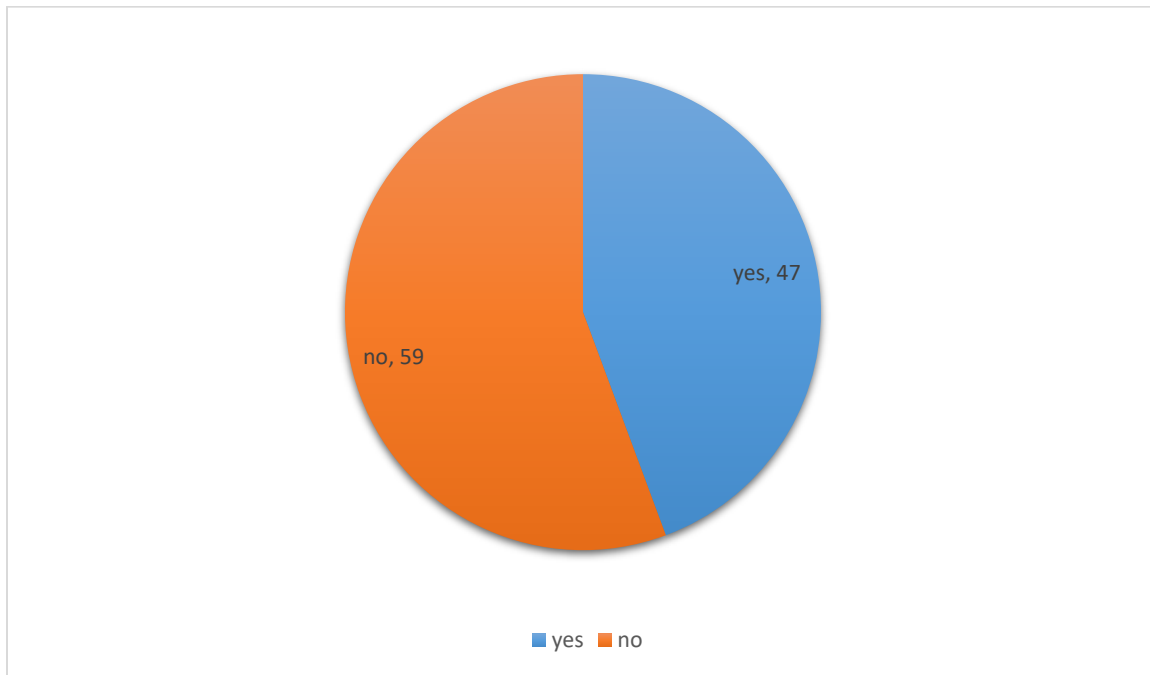


2nd Question: Do you have fears that religious extremists will dominate the authority if Gulf States become a constitutional Kingdom?

47 participants answered yes (44.34%)

59 participants answered no (55.66%)

The Bahraini society is known to have more liberal religious parties compared to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. However, a large percentage still fears of the authority of religion.

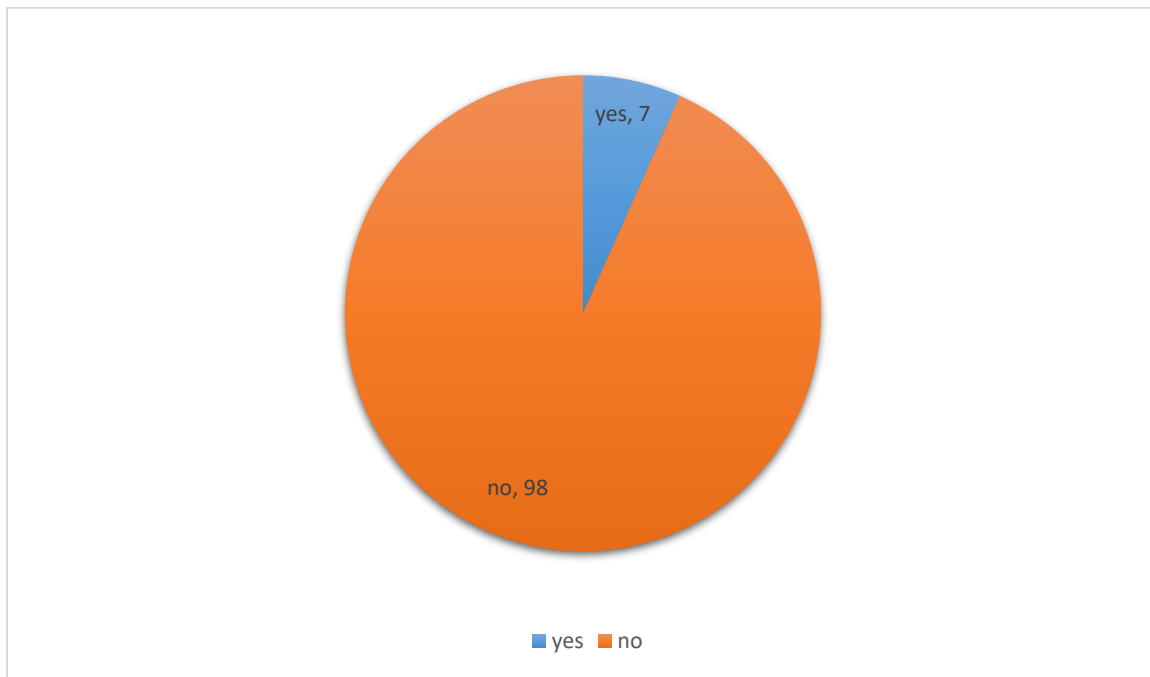


3rd Question: Do you prefer to keep the current situation as it is?

7 participants answered yes (6.67%)

98 participants answered no (93.33%)

Many of those who refused the current situation may be due to the violent occurrences that Bahrain encountered after the uprising of February 14.

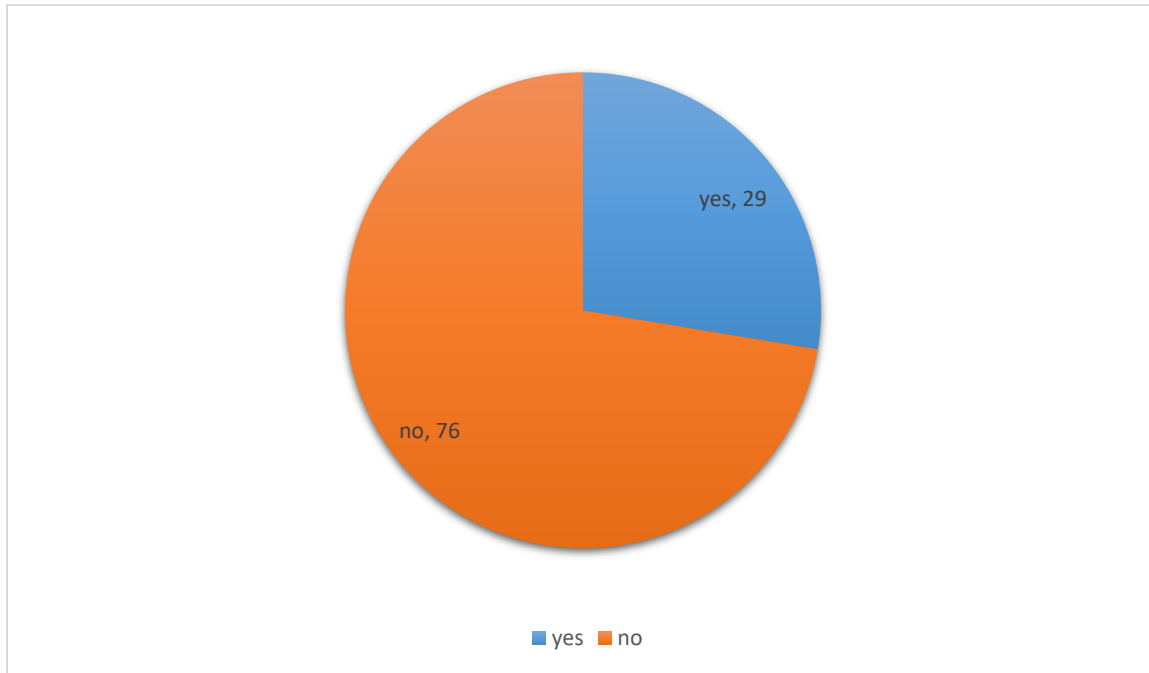


4th Question: Do you expect disturbances in the region if the Gulf States become constitutional kingdoms?

29 participants answered yes (27.62%)

76 participants answered no (72.38%)

There is no doubt that the Bahraini experience is rich in this context compared to other Gulf countries. This may be the reason why the majority are not concerned of disturbances in case they decide to convert to a constitutional kingdom.

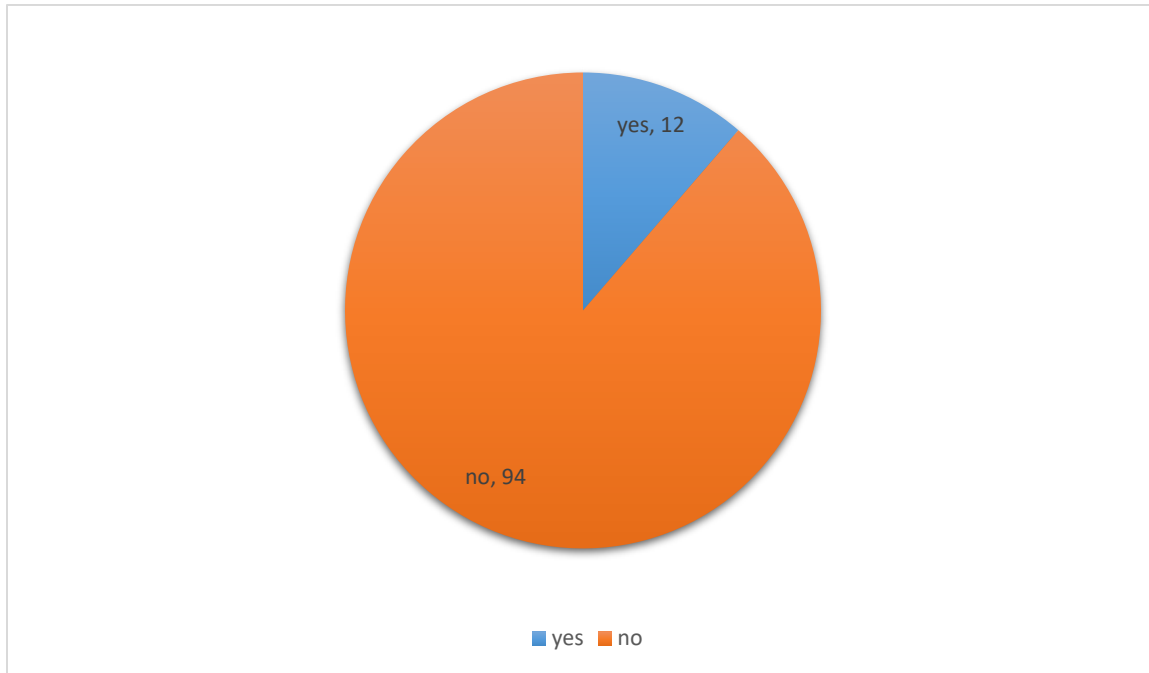


5th Question: Do you expect freedom to become anarchy if Gulf States become constitutional kingdoms?

12 participants answered yes (11.32%)

94 participants answered no (88.68%)

The high percentage who voted that they do not believe that freedom will turn into anarchy may reflect the peaceful nature of the Bahraini people.

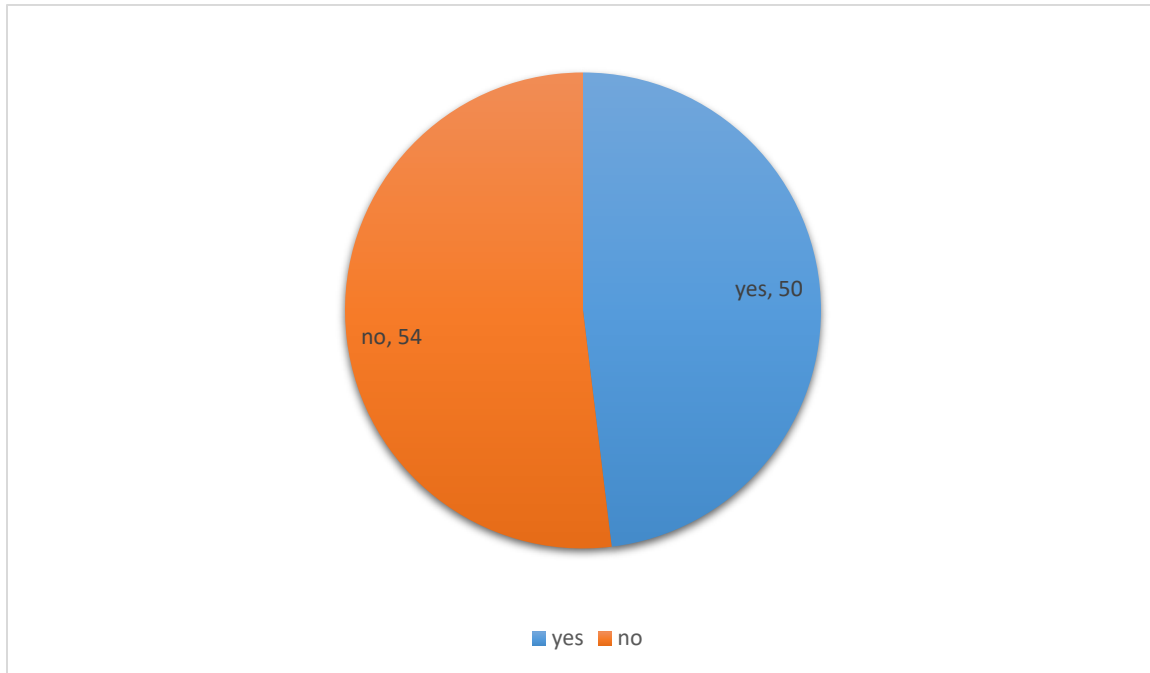


6th Question: If the Gulf States want to turn to constitutional kingdoms, will the West stand against it?

50 participants answered yes (48.08%)

54 participants answered no (51.92%)

The results show that although a large proportion does not fear from the West, an almost equal percentage do not trust them.

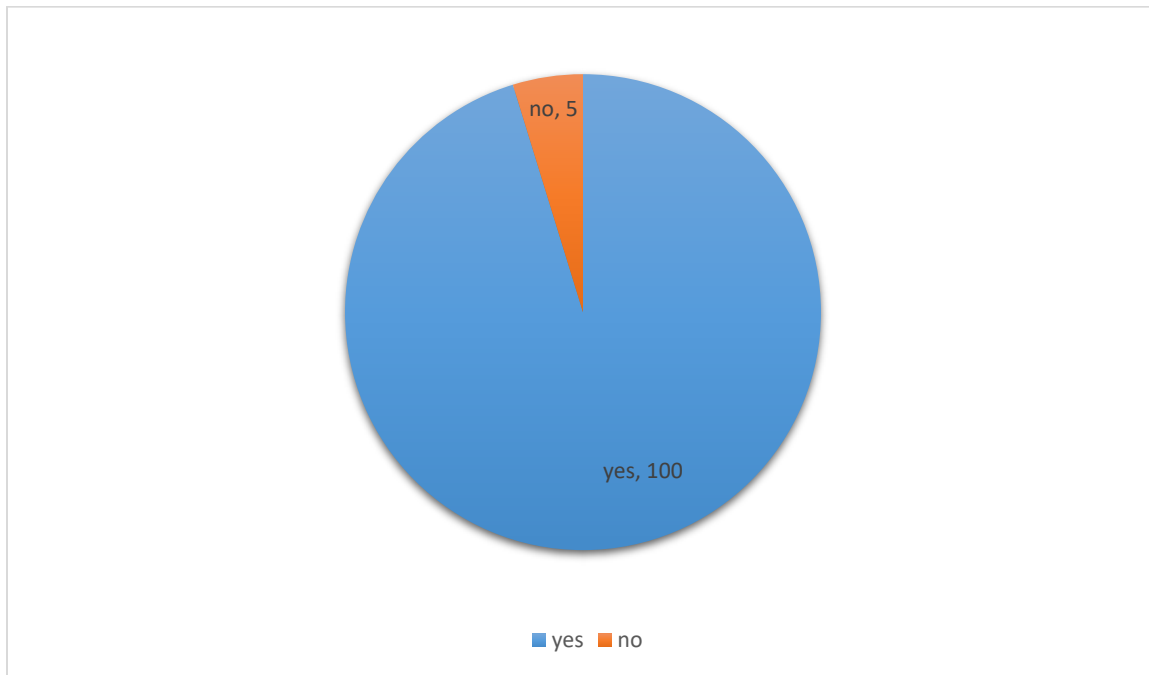


7th Question: In your opinion, will the Gulf societies grow economically, politically, and culturally if they become constitutional kingdoms?

100 participants answered yes (95.24%)

5 participants answered no (4.76%)

The answers reveal that almost all the Bahraini sample believe that their country will develop on all levels once they transfer to a constitutional kingdom.

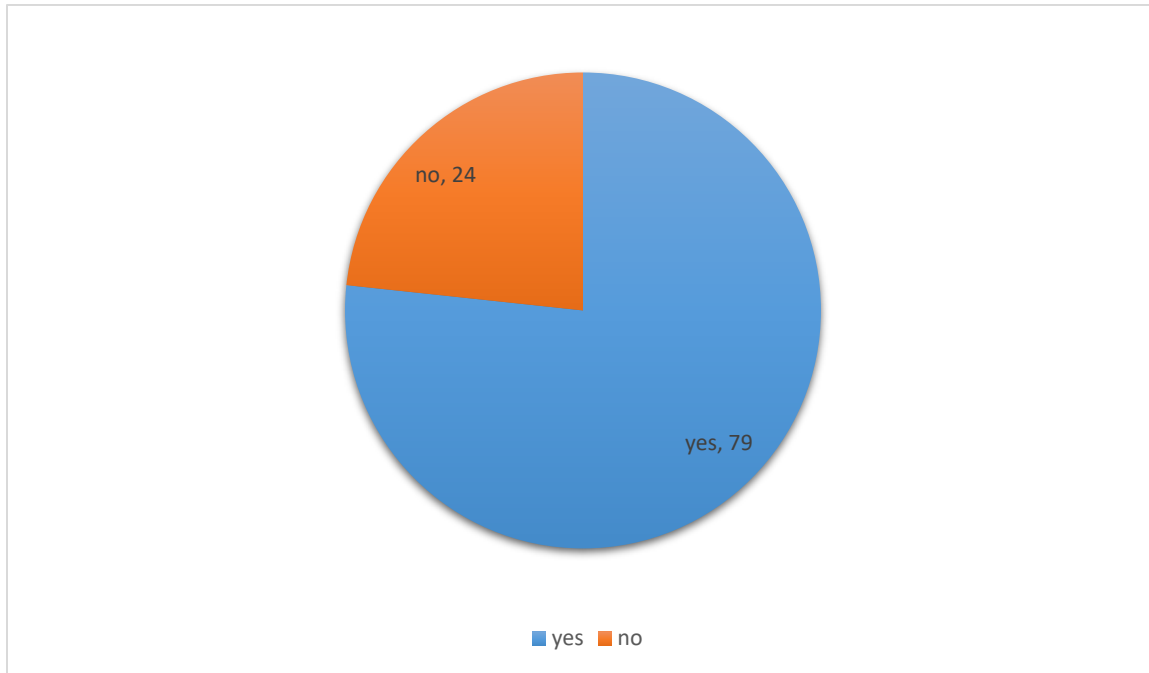


8th Question: Do you fear for your life if you publicly declared your support for constitutional kingdoms in the Gulf States?

79 participants answered yes (76.70%)

24 participants answered no (23.30%)

The large number of participants who answered yes to this question reflects the fear the Bahraini society live in regarding expressing their opinions.



9th Question: What is the biggest obstacle to the transformation of the Gulf States to constitutional kingdoms?

45 participants answered corrupted regimes (43.27%)

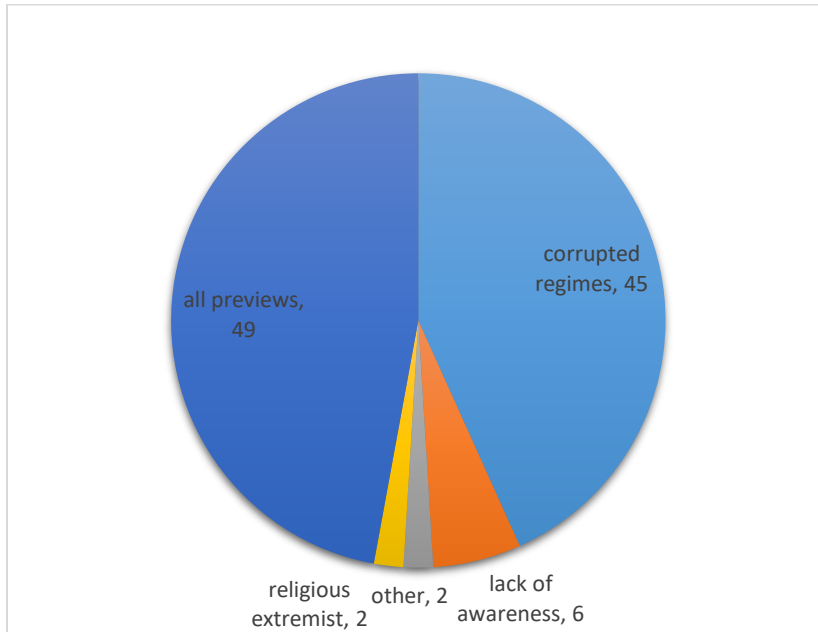
6 participants answered lack of people's awareness (5.77%)

2 participants answered religious extremist (1.92%)

2 participants answered "other" (1.92%)

49 participants answered all the above (47.12%)

The results show that the biggest obstacle in front of the transformation to constitutional kingdoms include all the previous reasons. Although corrupted regimes seem to be the dominant reason in the Bahraini sample.



10th Question: What is the best governance system?

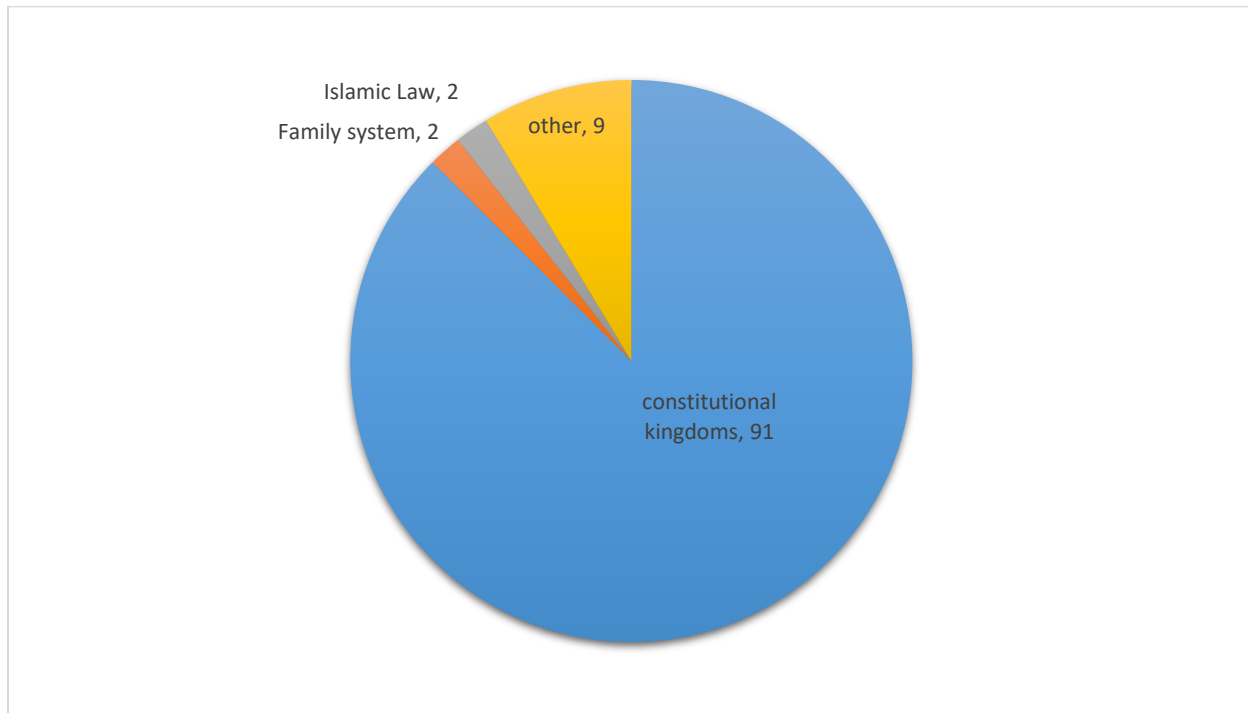
91 participants answered no alternative to constitutional kingdoms (87.50%)

2 participants voted for Islamic law (1.92%)

2 participants voted for keeping royal family systems (1.92%)

9 participants voted “other” (8.65%)

The majority wants to transfer to constitutional kingdoms, and no one answered with the approval of being colonized by the West.



Sultanate of Oman

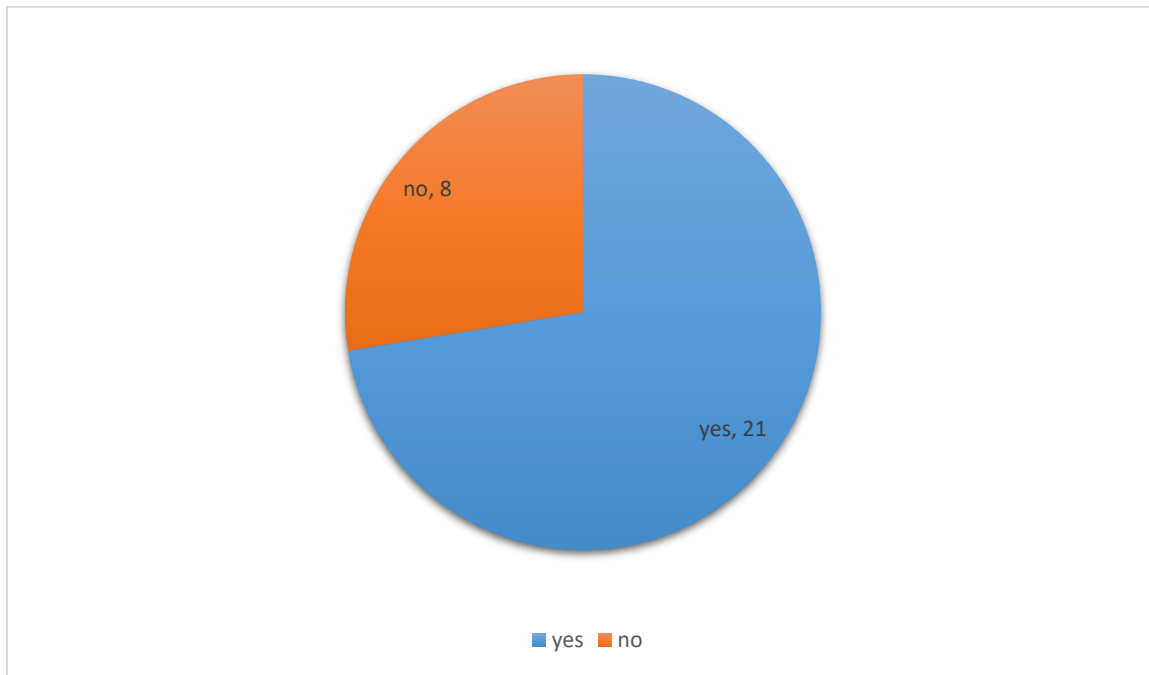
30 participants completed the survey from Oman, the Sultanate came in fourth place in terms of participation.

1st Question: Do you support the transformation of the Gulf States into constitutional kingdoms?

21 participants answered yes (72.47%)

8 participants answered no (27.59%)

Nearly two-thirds want a constitutional kingdom, while one-third prefer the situation to remain the same.

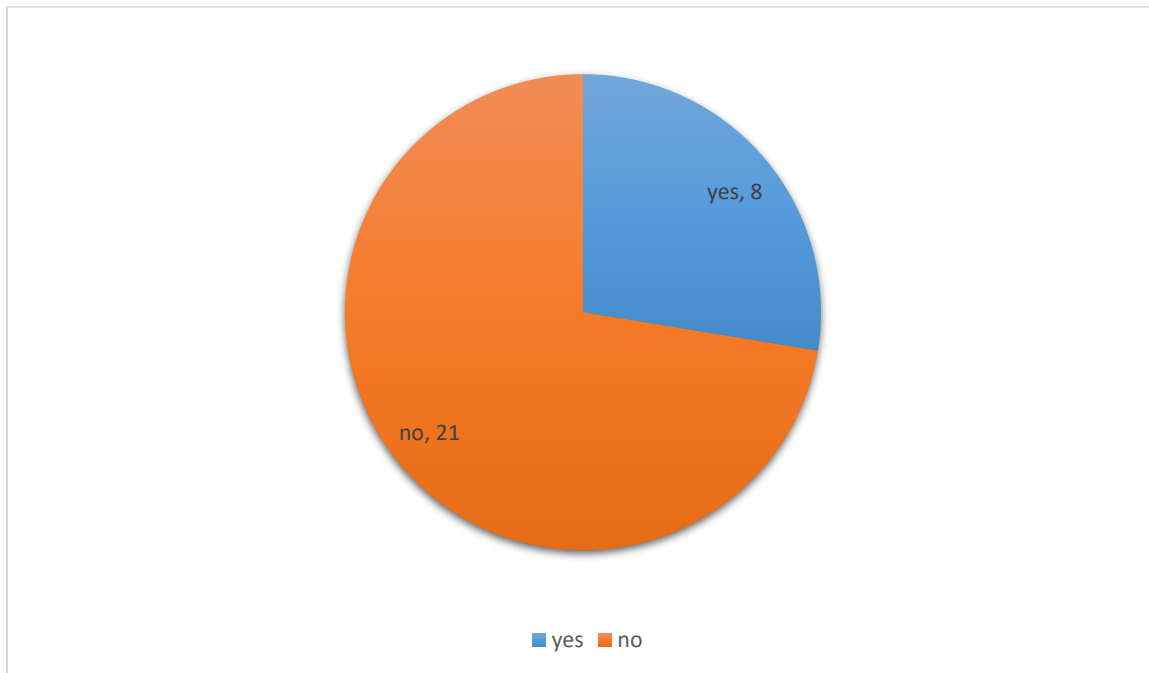


2nd Question: Do you have fears that religious extremists will dominate the authority if Gulf States become a constitutional Kingdom?

8 participants answered yes (72.41%)

21 participants answered no (27.59%)

Most Omanis were not afraid that religious extremist might dominate authority. The reason behind this may be that the Omani system has long maintained a distance between it and between fundamentalist.

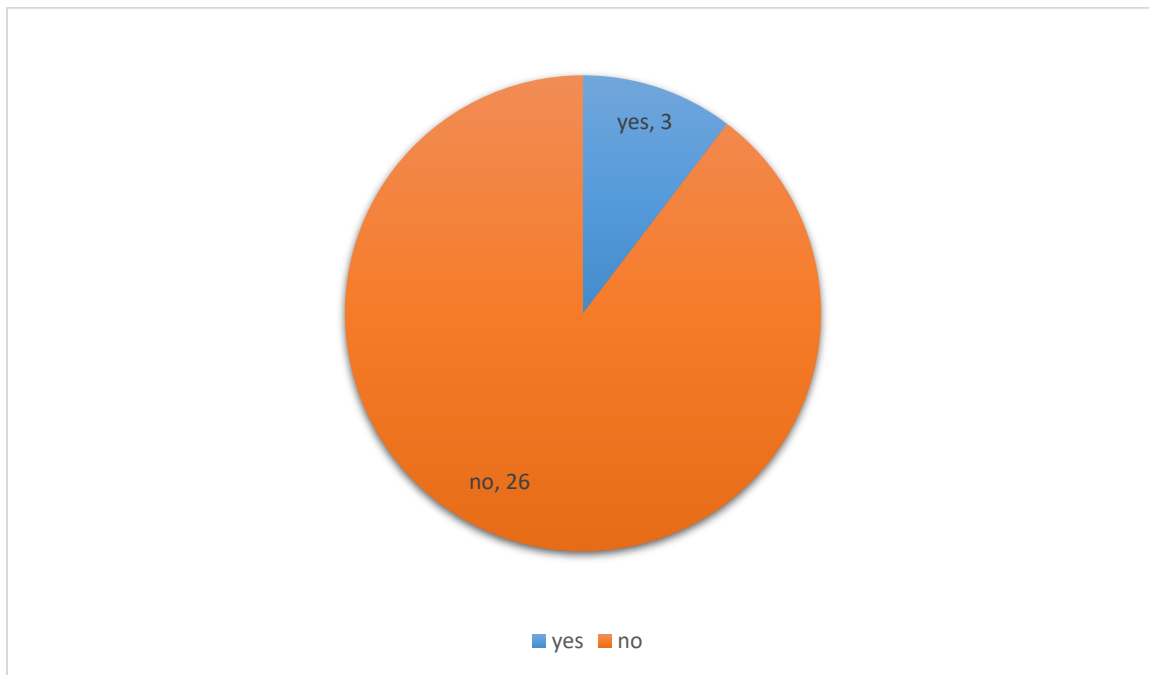


3rd Question: Do you prefer to keep the current situation as it is?

3 participants answered yes (10.34%)

26 participants answered no (89.66%)

Almost 90% of Omanis refuse the current situation.

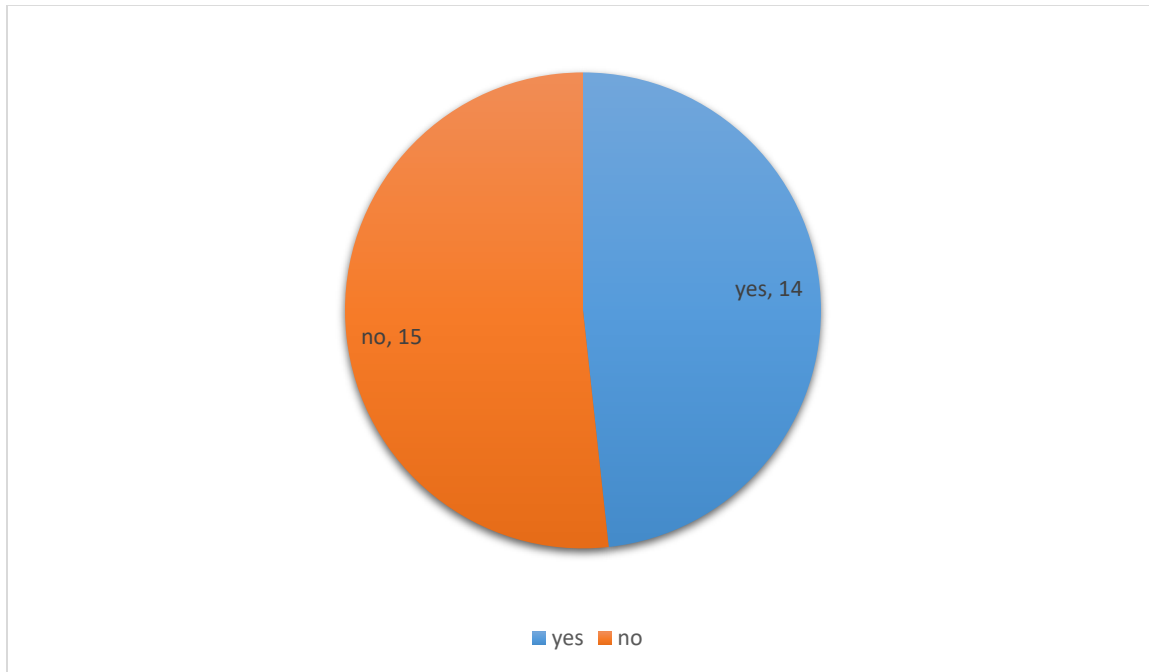


4th Question: Do you expect disturbances in the region if the Gulf States become constitutional kingdoms?

14 participants answered yes (48.28%)

15 participants answered no (51.72%)

The sample was divided between those who believed that the transformation will lead to disturbances in the region and those who thought that it will be fine.

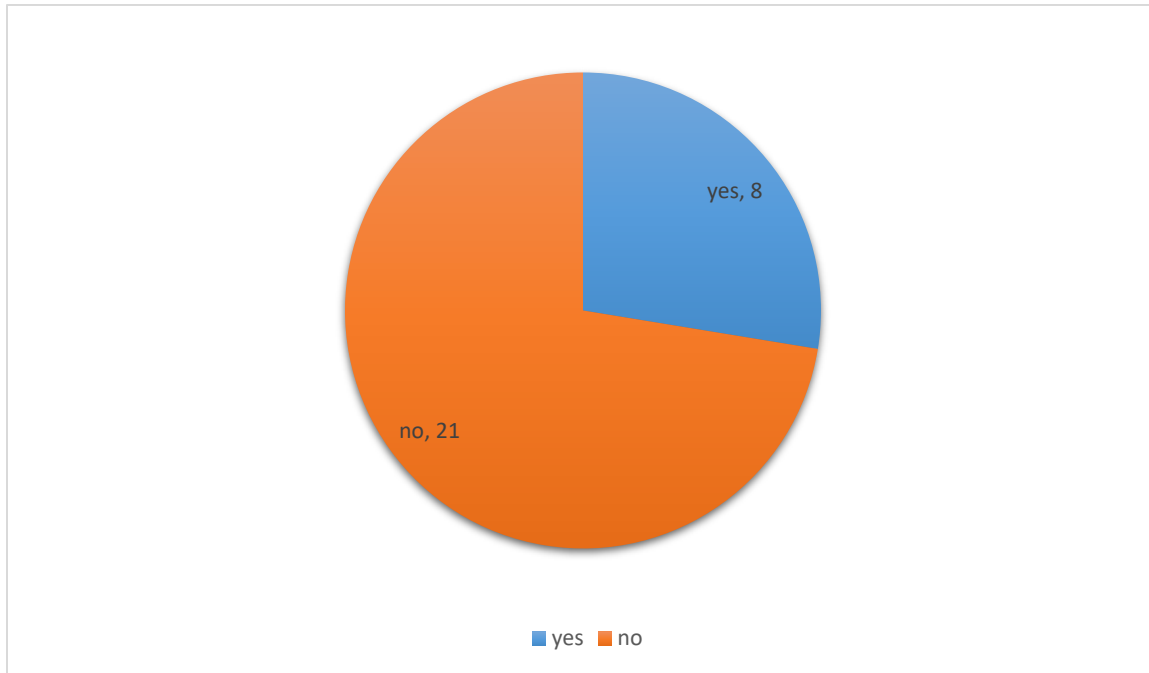


5th Question: Do you expect freedom to become anarchy if Gulf States become constitutional kingdoms?

8 participants answered yes (27.59%)

21 participants answered no (72.41%)

The high percentage who voted that they do not believe that freedom will turn into anarchy may reflect the peaceful nature of the Omani people.

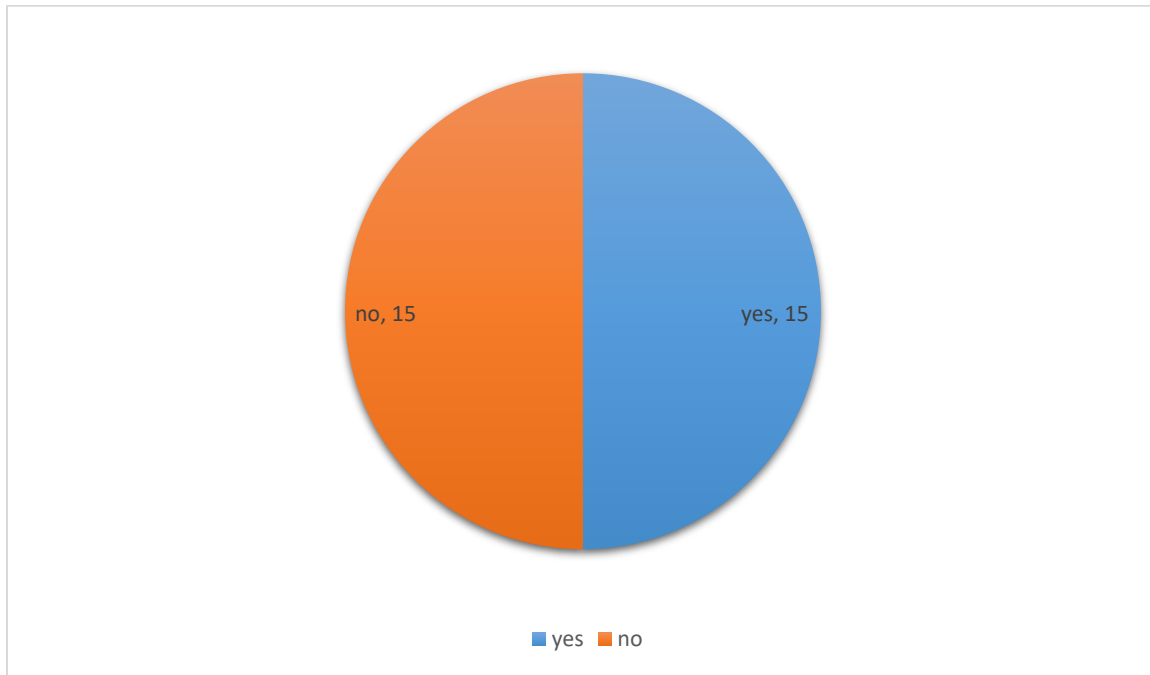


6th Question: If the Gulf States want to turn to constitutional kingdoms, will the West stand against it?

15 participants answered yes (50.00%)

15 participants answered no (50.00%)

The results show a sharp societal split regarding trusting the West.

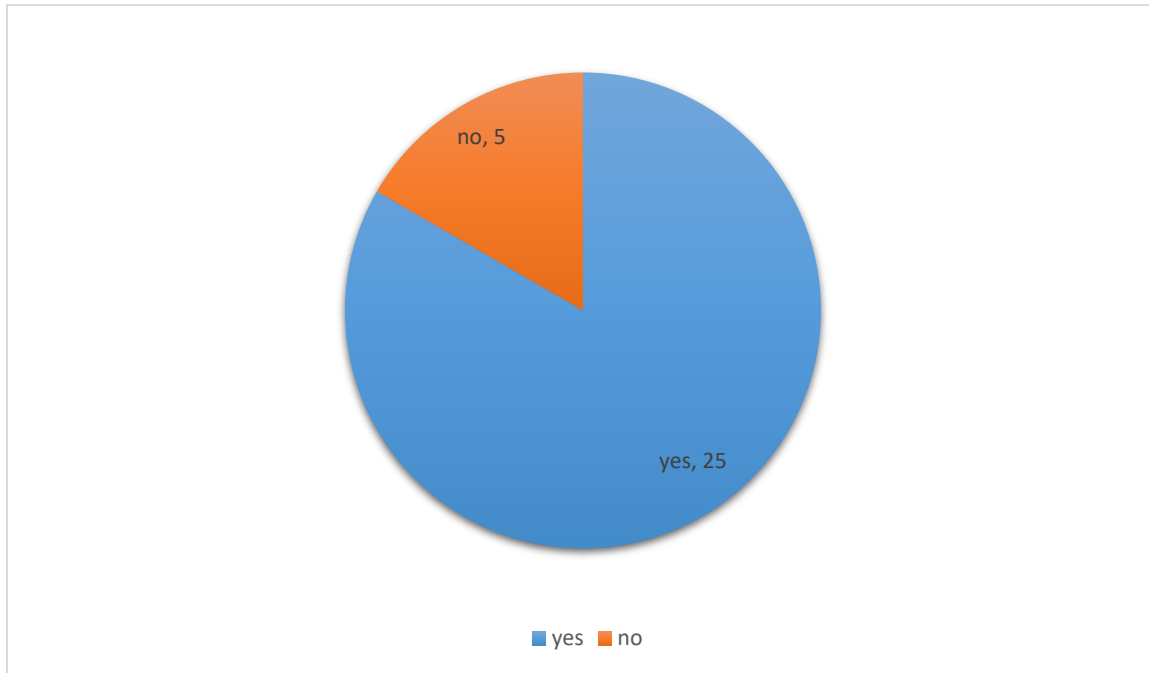


7th Question: In your opinion, will the Gulf societies grow economically, politically, and culturally if they become constitutional kingdoms?

5 participants answered yes (16.67%)

25 participants answered no (83.33%)

The answers show that most of the Omani sample believe that their country will develop on all levels once they transfer to a constitutional kingdom.

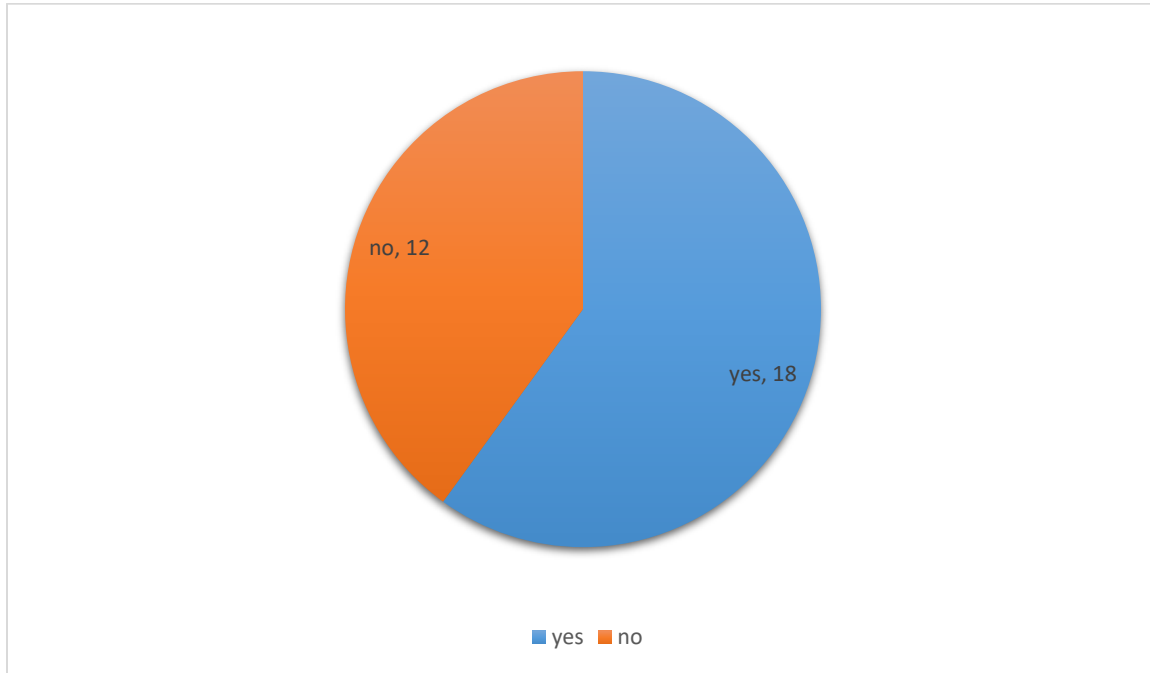


8th Question: Do you fear for your life if you publicly declared your support for constitutional kingdoms in the Gulf States?

18 participants answered yes (60.00%)

12 participants answered no (40.00%)

The majority answered that they fear expressing their opinions about a transformation of a constitutional kingdom.



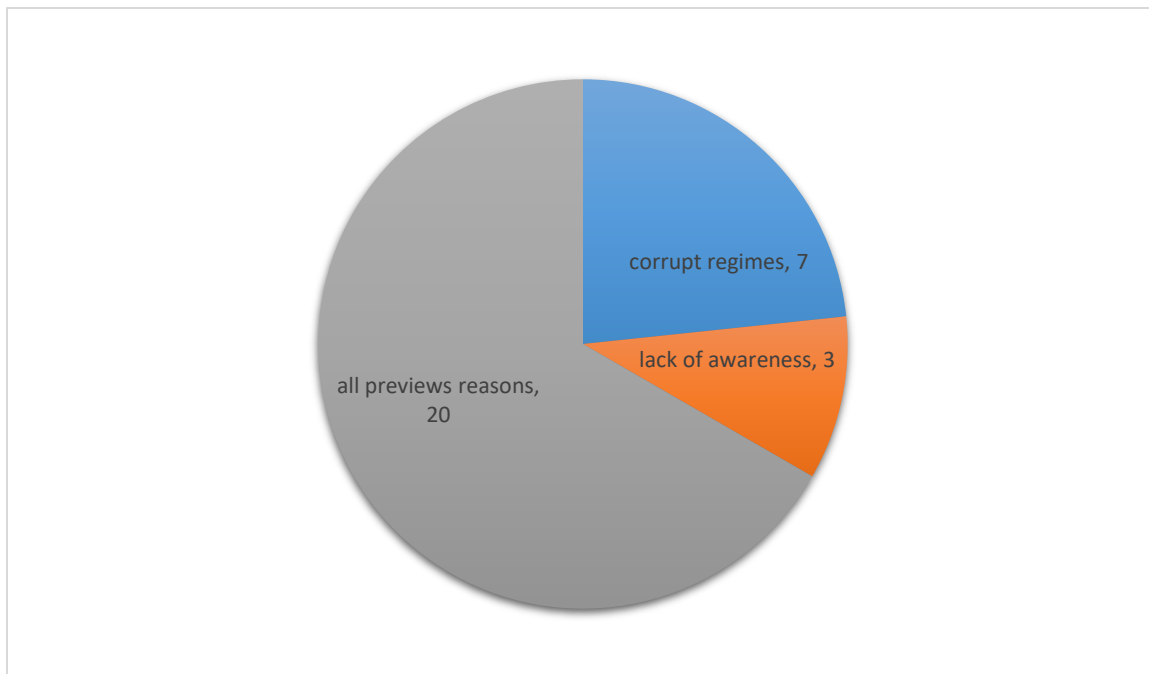
9th Question: What is the biggest obstacle to the transformation of the Gulf States to constitutional kingdoms?

7 participants answered corrupted regimes (23.33%)

3 participants answered lack of people's awareness (10.00%)

20 participants answered all the above (66.67%)

The results show that the biggest obstacle in front of the transformation to constitutional kingdoms include all the previous reasons.



10th Question: What is the best governance system?

15 participants answered no alternative to constitutional kingdoms (50.00%)

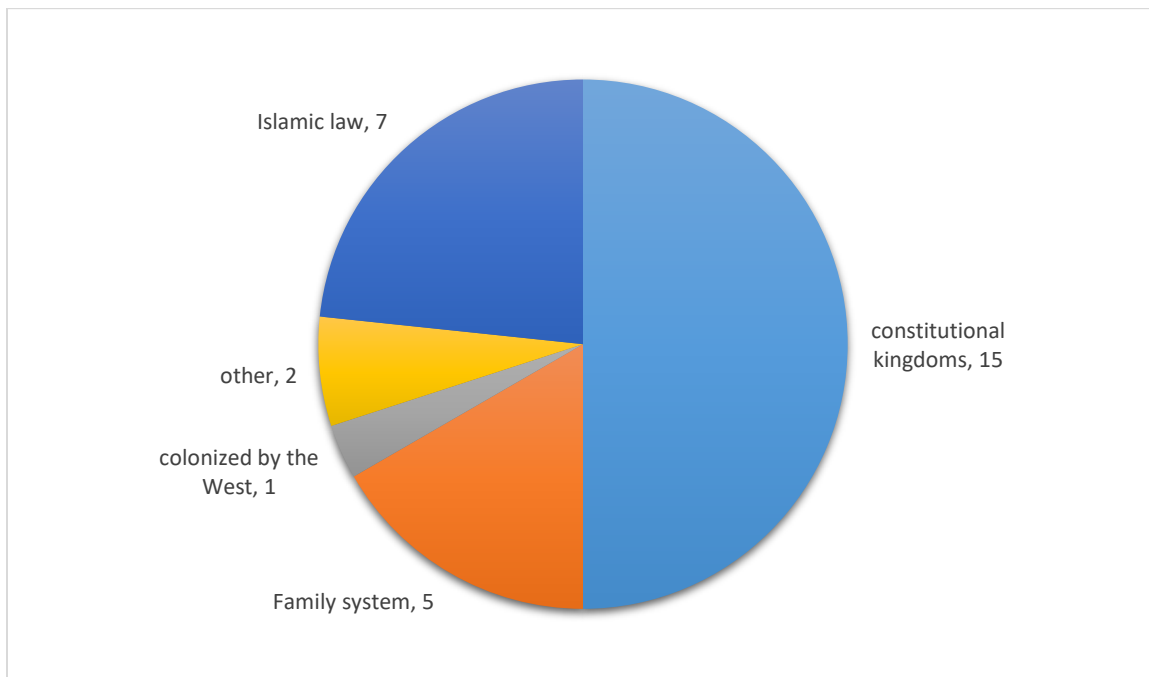
7 participants voted for Islamic law (23.33%)

5 participants voted for keeping royal family systems (16.67%)

2 participants voted “other” (6.67%)

1 voted for being colonized by the West (3.33%)

Most Omanis wants to transfer to constitutional kingdoms.



Qatar

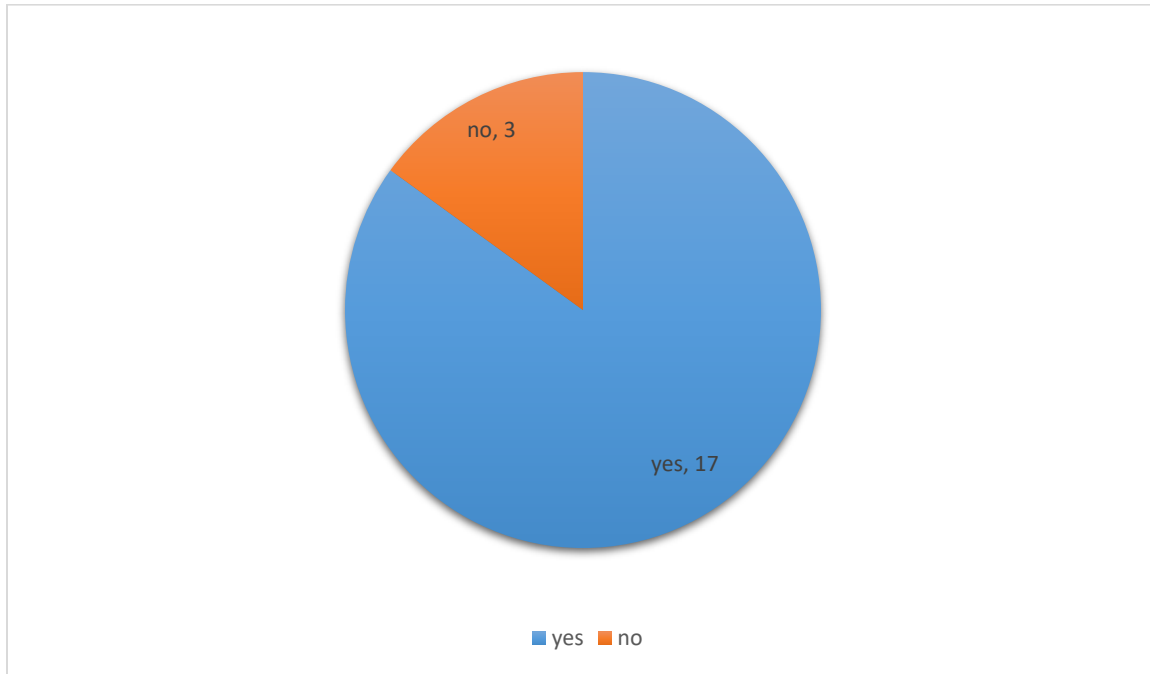
Only 20 participants participated from Qatar.

1st Question: Do you support the transformation of the Gulf States into constitutional kingdoms?

17 participants answered yes (85.00%)

3 participants answered no (15.00%)

A high percentage of the Qatari community voted for the transformation.

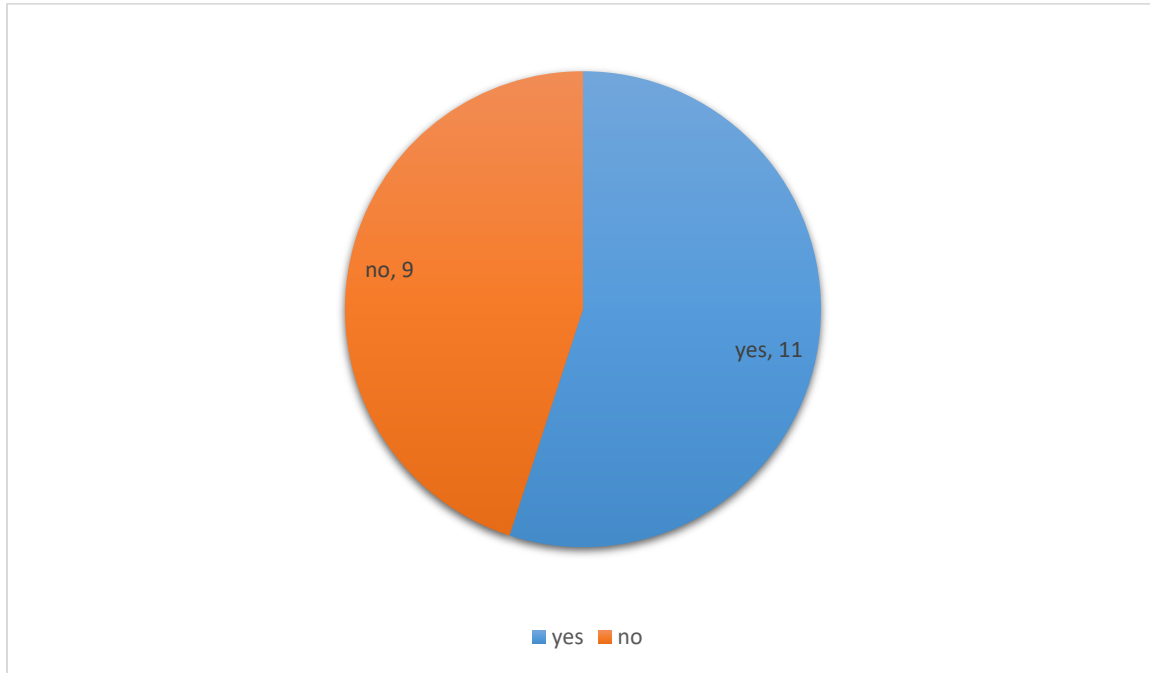


2nd Question: Do you have fears that religious extremists will dominate the authority if Gulf States become a constitutional Kingdom?

11 participants answered yes (55.00%)

9 participants answered no (45.00%)

A higher percentage expressed concerns regarding religious trends having control over authority.

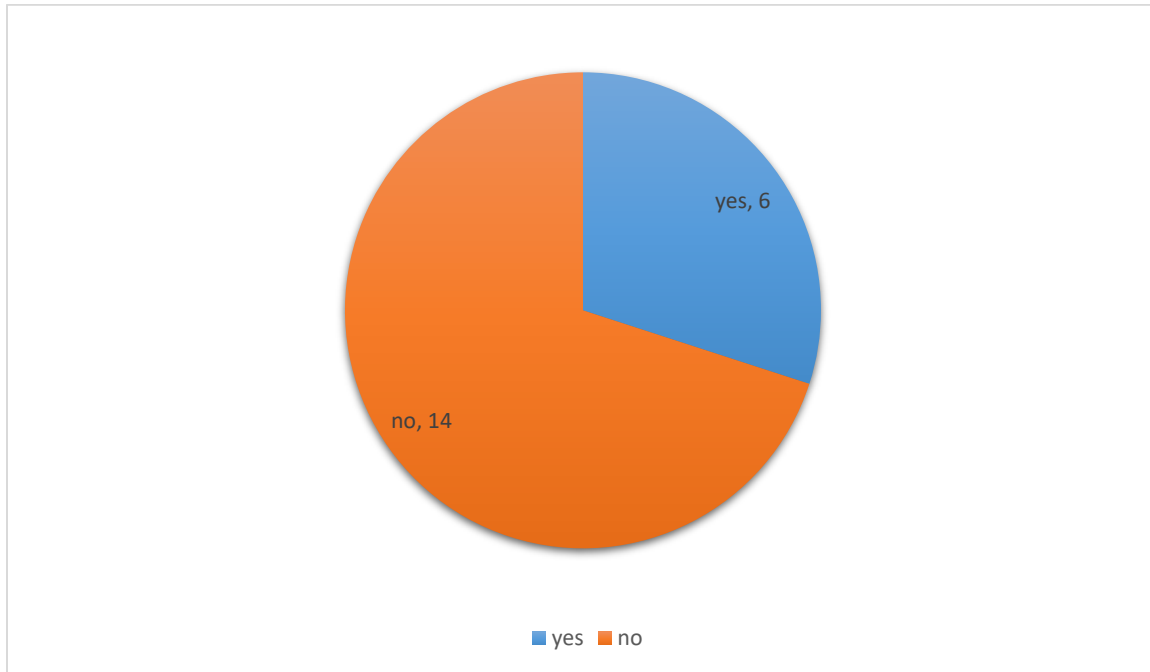


3rd Question: Do you prefer to keep the current situation as it is?

6 participants answered yes (30.00%)

14 participants answered no (70.00%)

70% of Qataris refuse the current situation.

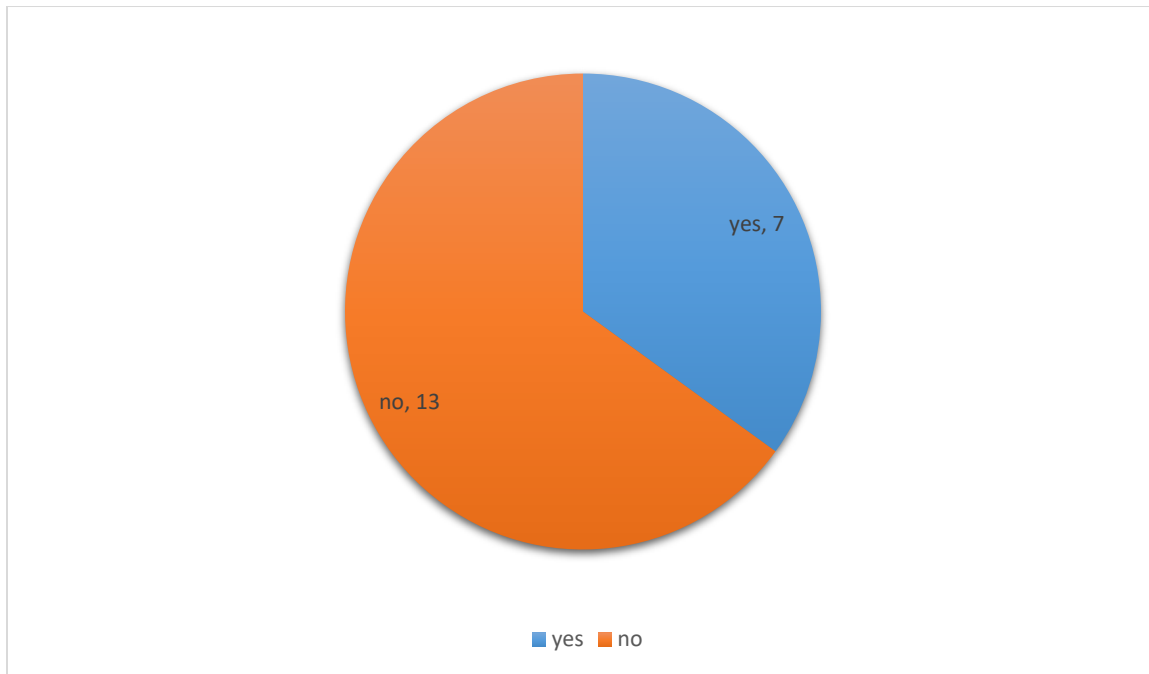


4th Question: Do you expect disturbances in the region if the Gulf States become constitutional kingdoms?

7 participants answered yes (35.00%)

13 participants answered no (65.00%)

The majority does not fear the transformation to constitutional kingdoms.

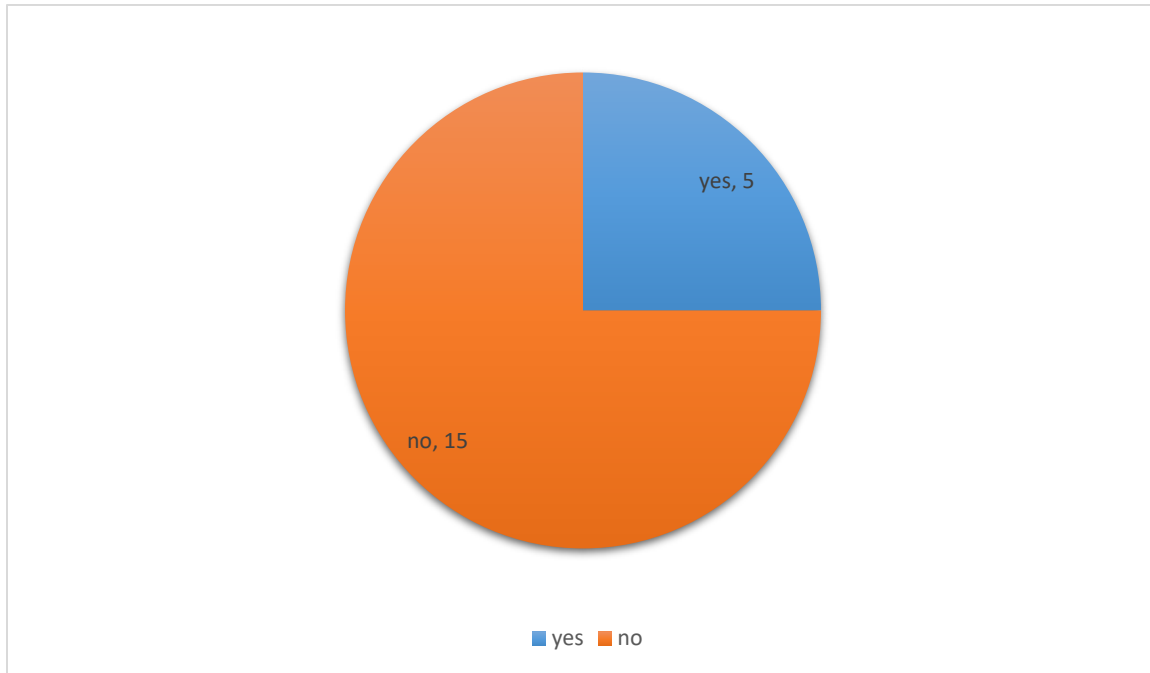


5th Question: Do you expect freedom to become anarchy if Gulf States become constitutional kingdoms?

5 participants answered yes (25.00%)

15 participants answered no (75.00%)

75.00% of Qataris do not believe that freedom will bring anarchy if their country becomes a constitutional kingdom.

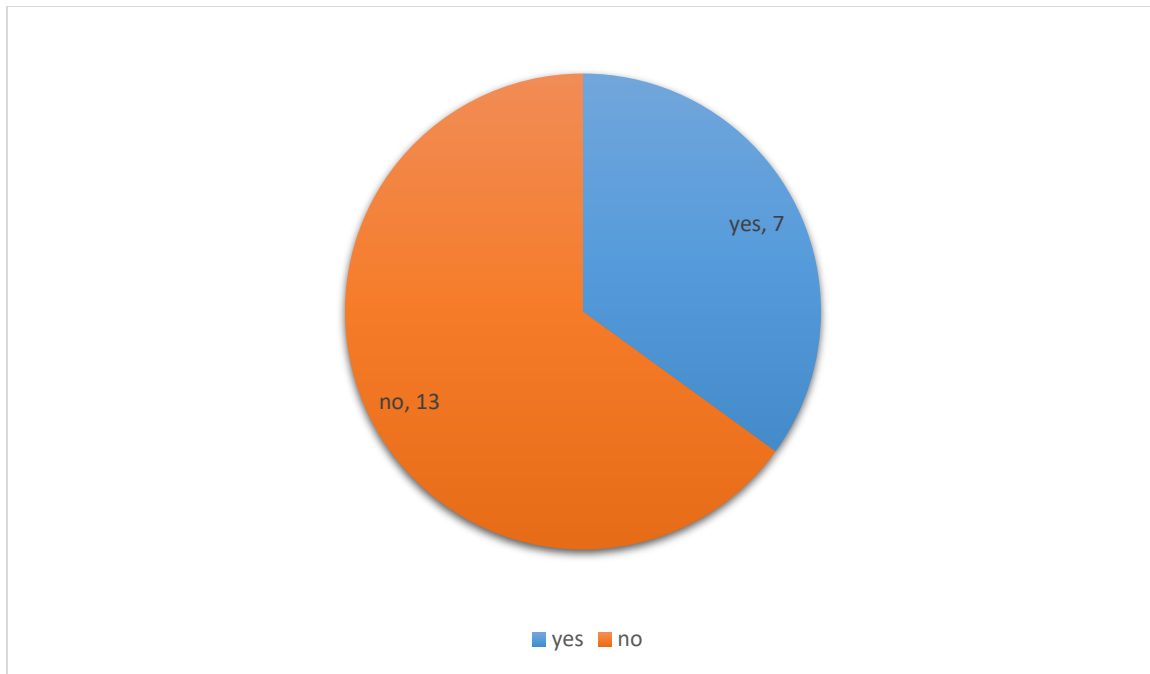


6th Question: If the Gulf States want to turn to constitutional kingdoms, will the West stand against it?

7 participants answered yes (35.00%)

13 participants answered no (65.00%)

Most Qataris do not view the West as a threat.

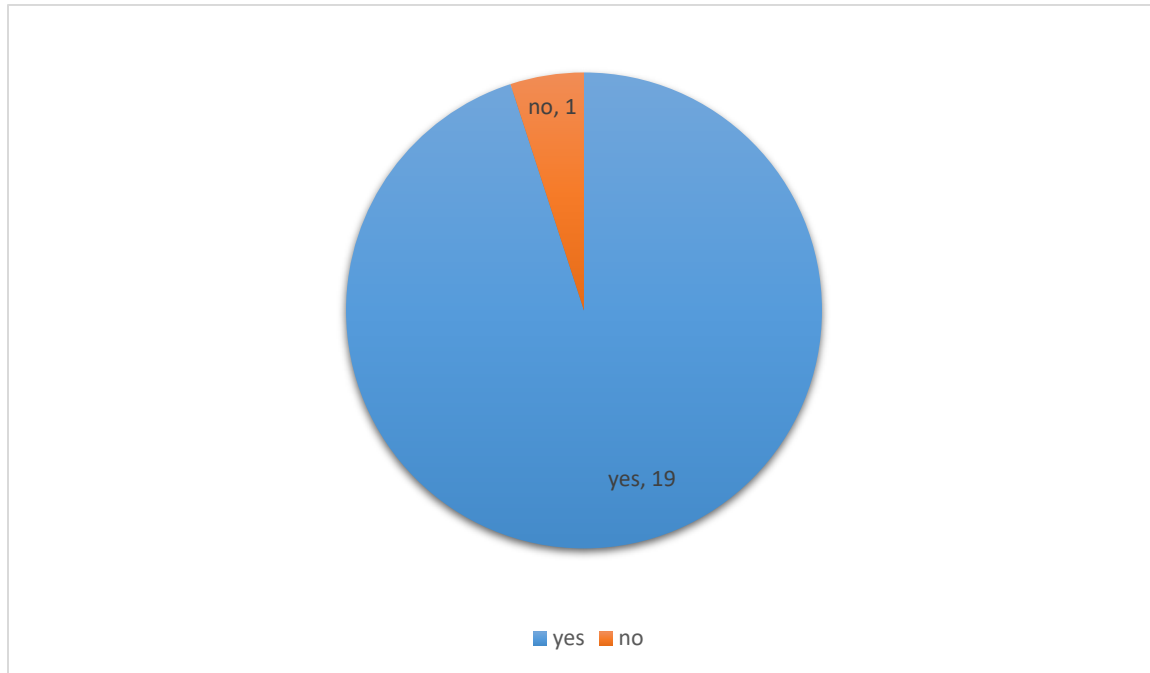


7th Question: In your opinion, will the Gulf societies grow economically, politically, and culturally if they become constitutional kingdoms?

19 participants answered yes (95.00%)

1 participant answered no (5.00%)

Almost all the sample agreed on having a better country if they transferred to a constitutional kingdom.

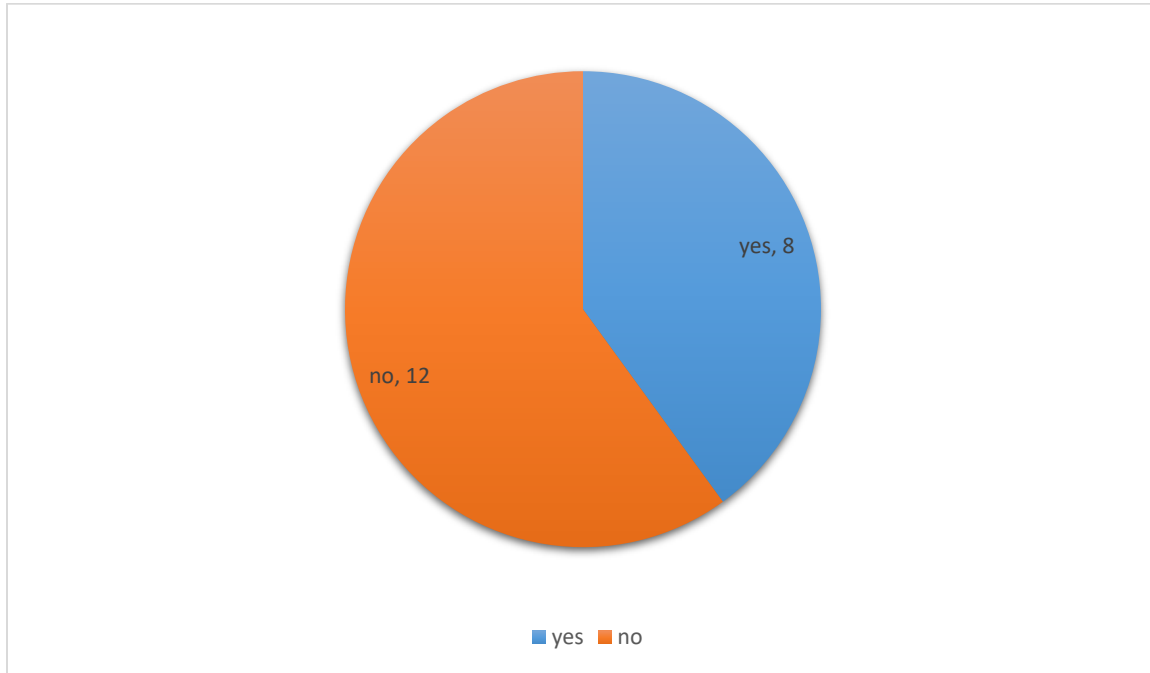


8th Question: Do you fear for your life if you publicly declared your support for constitutional kingdoms in the Gulf States?

8 participants answered yes (40.00%)

12 participants answered no (60.00%)

Most Qataris citizens are afraid of expressing their opinions publicly about supporting constitutional kingdoms.



9th Question: What is the biggest obstacle to the transformation of the Gulf States to constitutional kingdoms?

7 participants answered corrupted regimes (35.00%)

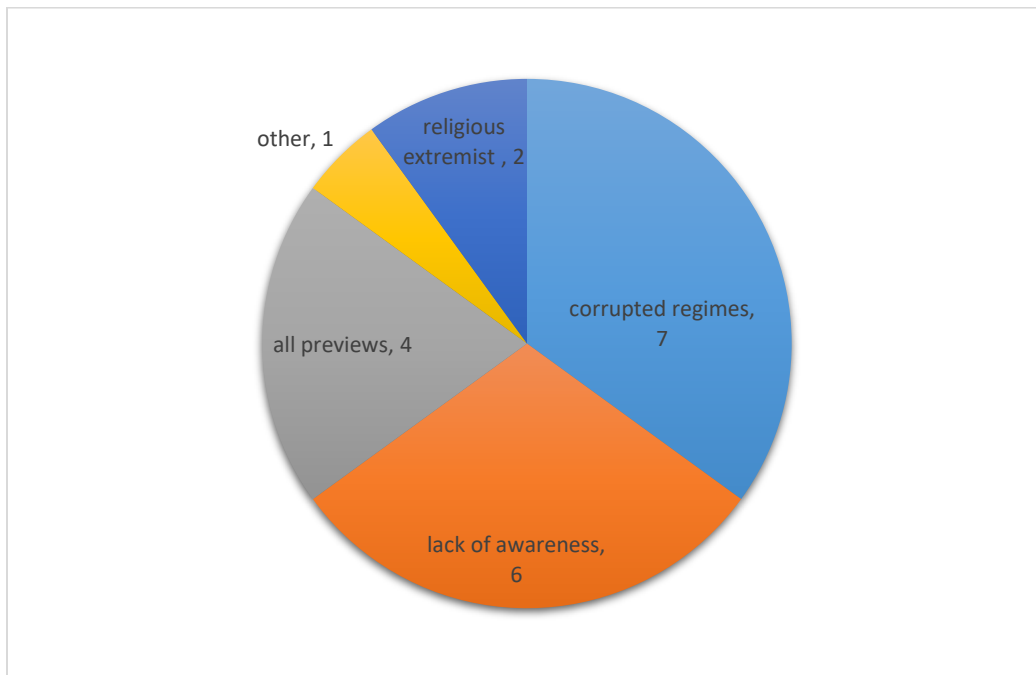
6 participants answered lack of people's awareness (30.00%)

2 participants answered religious extremist (10.00%)

1 participant answered "other" (5.00%)

4 participants answered all the above (20.00%)

Most of the Qataris think that the corrupted regimes are the biggest obstacle towards becoming a constitutional kingdom.



10th Question: What is the best governance system?

10 participants answered no alternative to constitutional kingdoms (50.00%)

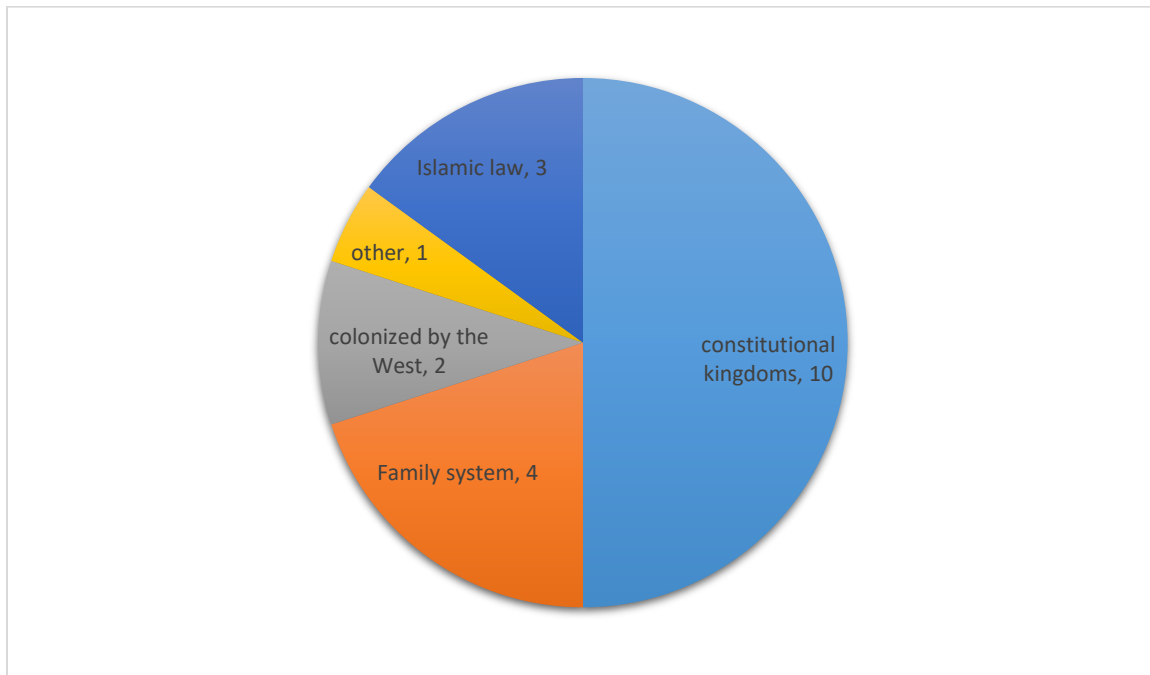
4 participants voted for royal family systems (20.00%)

3 participants voted for Islamic law (15.00%)

2 participants voted for being colonized by the West (10.00%)

1 voted “other” (5.00%)

Most Qataris wants to transfer to constitutional kingdoms.



United Arab Emirates

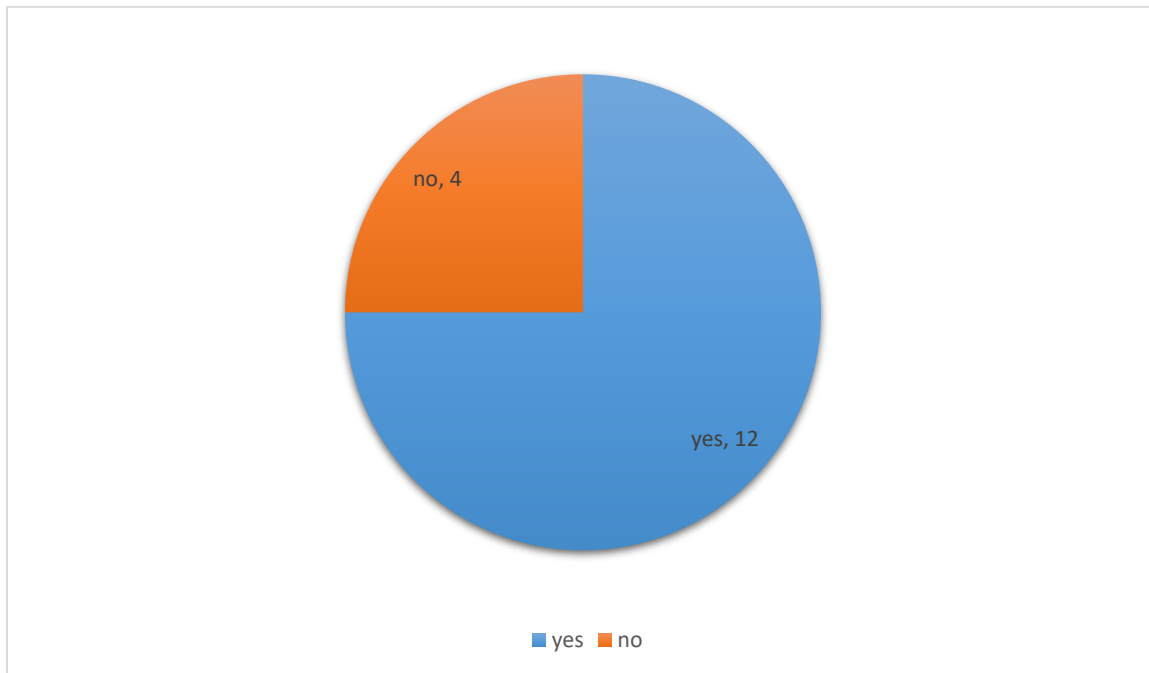
The United Arab Emirates was the least involved in this survey. Only 16 participants completed the survey.

1st Question: Do you support the transformation of the Gulf States into constitutional kingdoms?

12 participants answered yes (75.00%)

4 participants answered no (25.00%)

A high percentage of the Emirates community voted for the transformation.

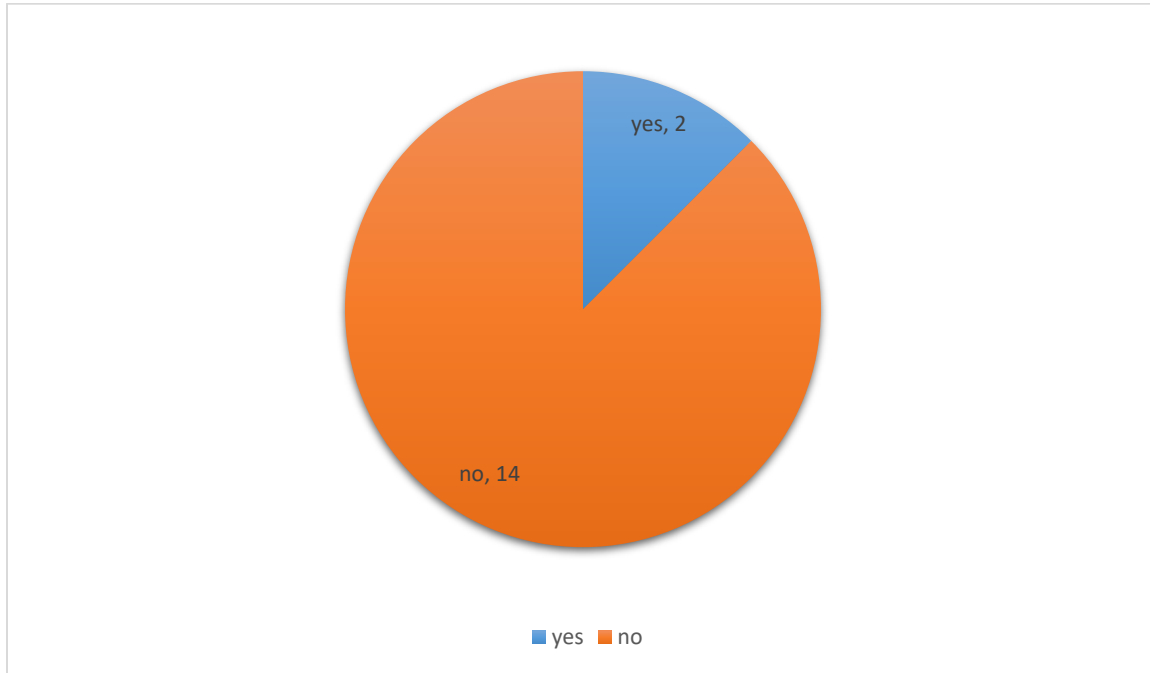


2nd Question: Do you have fears that religious extremists will dominate the authority if Gulf States become a constitutional Kingdom?

2 participants answered yes (12.50%)

14 participants answered no (87.50%)

Most of the sample did not express any concerns regarding religious trends having control over authority.

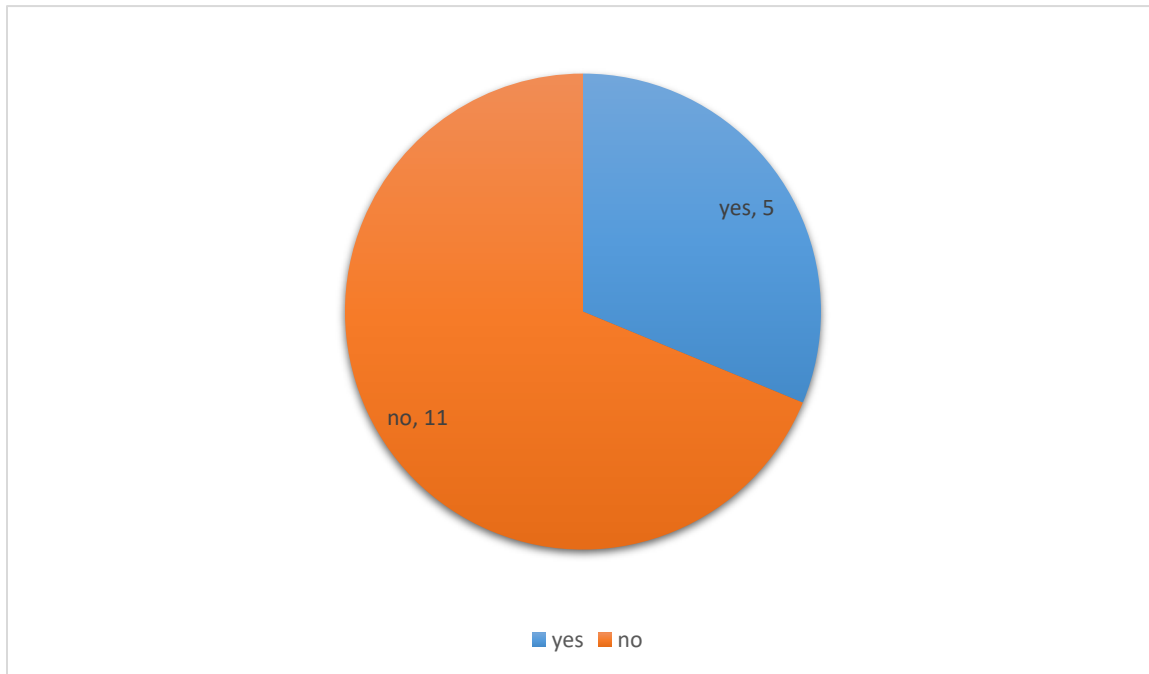


3rd Question: Do you prefer to keep the current situation as it is?

5 participants answered yes (31.25%)

11 participants answered no (68.75%)

69% of UAE citizens refuse the current situation.

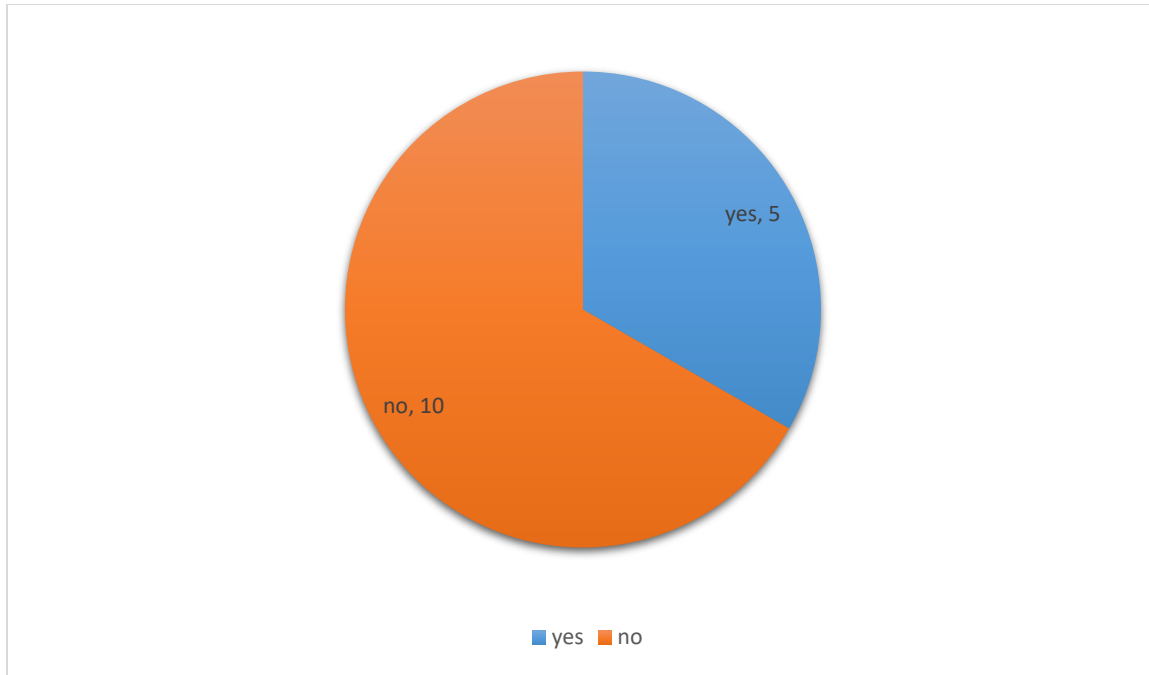


4th Question: Do you expect disturbances in the region if the Gulf States become constitutional kingdoms?

5 participants answered yes (33.33%)

10 participants answered no (66.67%)

The majority does not fear the transformation to constitutional kingdoms.

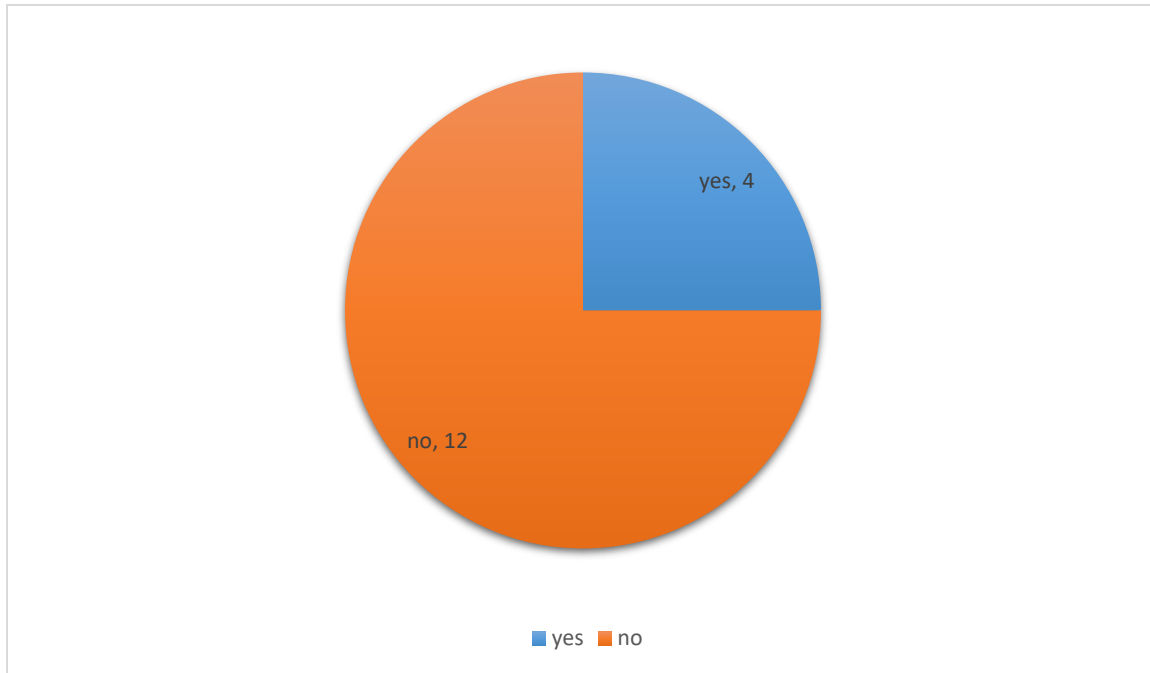


5th Question: Do you expect freedom to become anarchy if Gulf States become constitutional kingdoms?

4 participants answered yes (25.00%)

12 participants answered no (75.00%)

75.00% of UAE citizens do not believe that freedom will bring anarchy if their country becomes a constitutional kingdom.

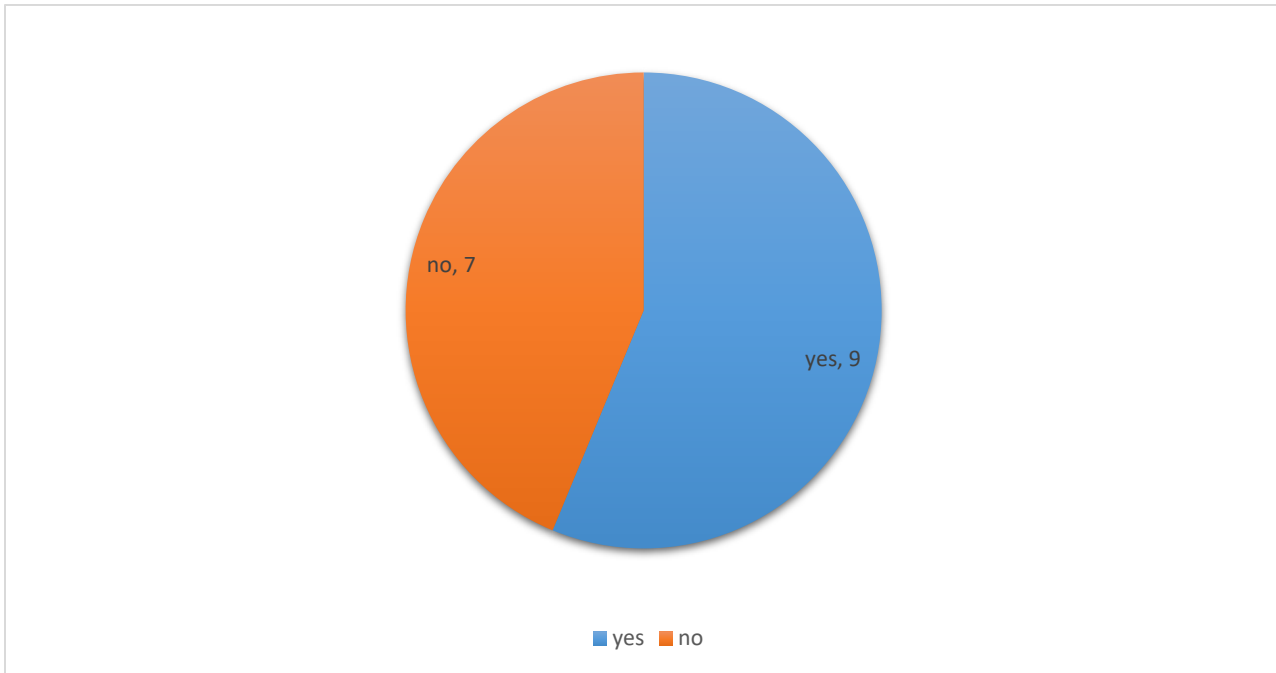


6th Question: If the Gulf States want to turn to constitutional kingdoms, will the West stand against it?

9 participants answered yes (56.25%)

7 participants answered no (43.75%)

Most UAE citizens do not view the West as a threat. However, a high percentage of them still do not trust the West.

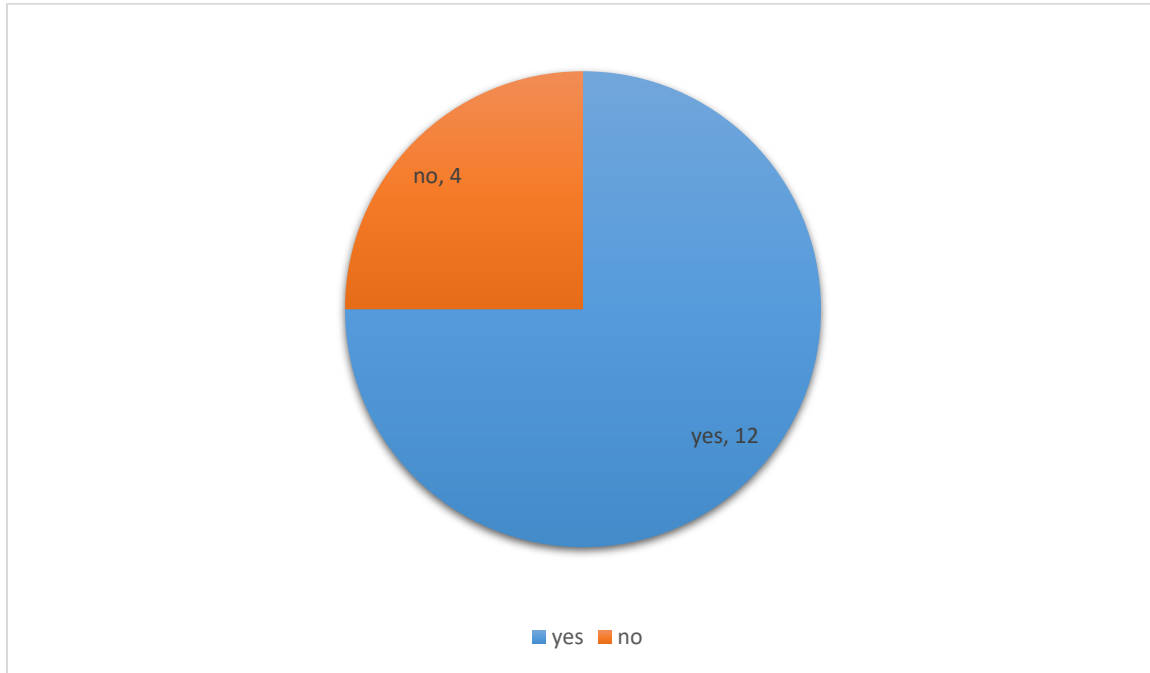


7th Question: In your opinion, will the Gulf societies grow economically, politically, and culturally if they become constitutional kingdoms?

12 participants answered yes (75.00%)

4 participants answered no (25.00%)

75% of the sample agreed on having a better country if they transferred to a constitutional kingdom.

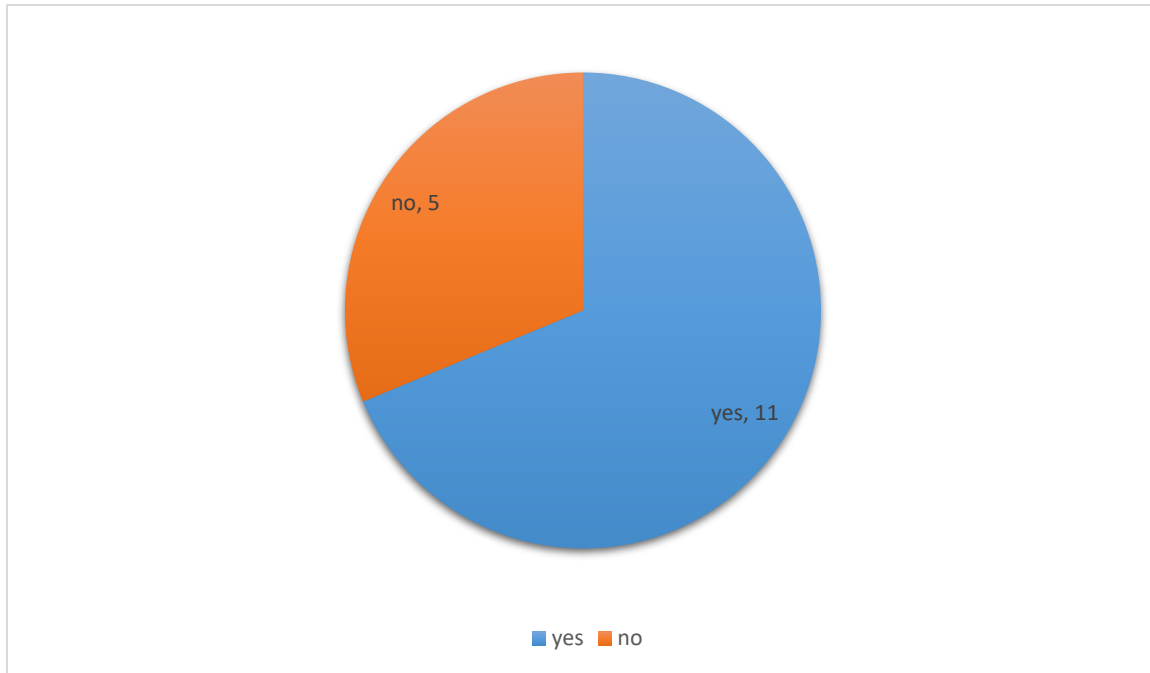


8th Question: Do you fear for your life if you publicly declared your support for constitutional kingdoms in the Gulf States?

11 participants answered yes (68.75%)

5 participants answered no (31.25%)

Most UAE citizens are afraid of expressing their opinions publicly about supporting constitutional kingdoms.



9th Question: What is the biggest obstacle to the transformation of the Gulf States to constitutional kingdoms?

3 participants answered corrupted regimes (20.00%)

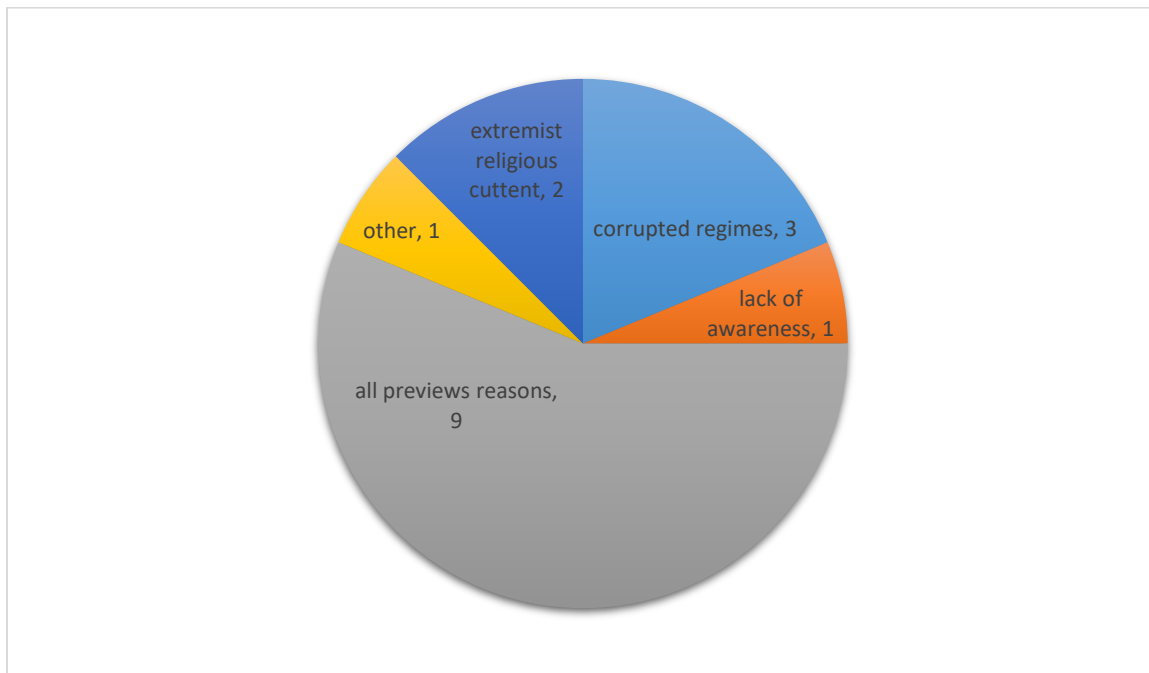
1 participant answered lack of people's awareness (5.00%)

2 participants answered religious extremist (10.00%)

1 participant answered "other" (5.00%)

9 participants answered all the above (60.00%)

It is clear from the answers that all the above reasons are obstacles to become a constitutional kingdom.



10th Question: What is the best governance system?

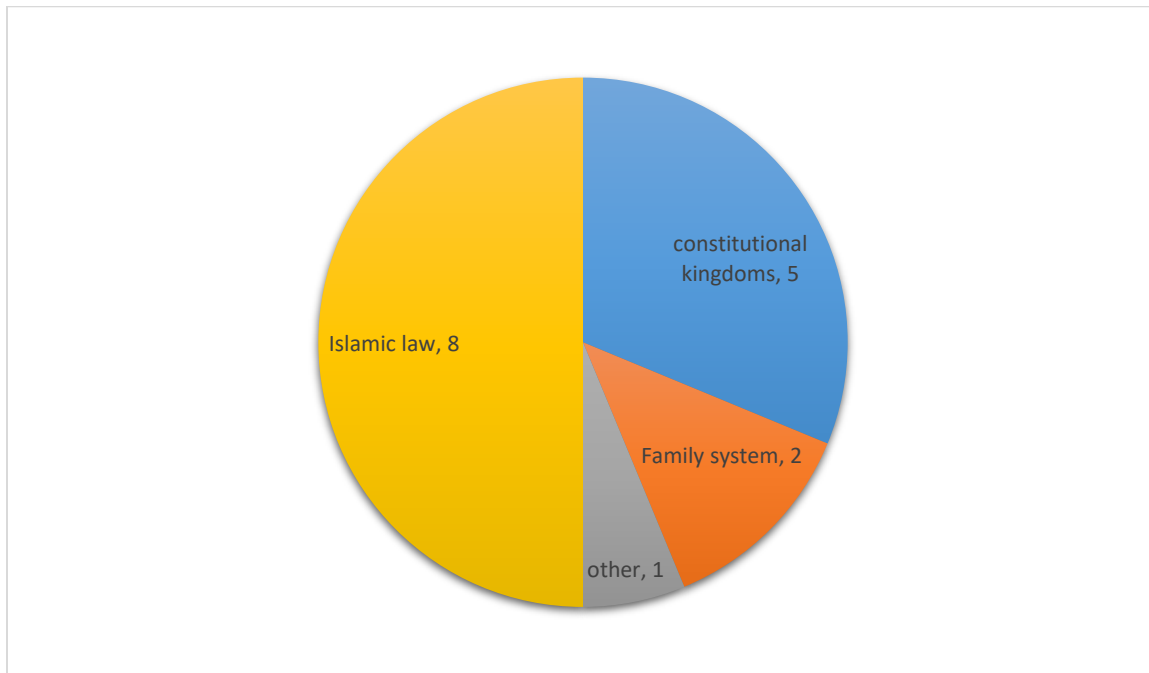
5 participants answered no alternative to constitutional kingdoms (31.25%)

2 participants voted for royal family systems (12.50%)

8 participants voted for Islamic law (50.00%)

1 voted “other” (5.00%)

The majority responded that the rule of Islamic law is the best governance system. This result may be because of the lack of participation in the Emiratis sample. More on this point in the (Future Research direction, p. 79).



Discussion

Based on the results of this survey, there is a widespread desire for GCC citizens to become constitutional kingdoms similarly to the European countries, and according to our knowledge, this research is the first of its kind concerning views of Gulf citizens to transfer their systems to constitutional kingdoms. It was evident through the data analysis that there is a consistent rejection of the current situation that amounted for 81.41% of the participants. Voters also agreed on the detail that there is no alternative to the constitutional kingdoms if the Gulf is serious about a restoration of its political, economic, and cultural system.

The State of Kuwait

A total of 403 participated from Kuwait, which is the largest number of participants in this survey. The small amount of freedom that Kuwait offers may prompted Kuwaitis for participation.

Regarding the fear of chaos in case Kuwait transferred to a constitutional monarchy, a large proportion did not fear that this would be the case. However, there was also a reasonable percentage that did show this concern.

Concerning the risk to the lives of individuals in the event of public disclosure of their opinion in a constitutional monarchy, the results showed that half of the Kuwaiti sample felt at risk if they publicly stated their opinion over this matter. This may be due to the regime's latest policies regarding jailing people who tweet their political or religious views. For example, a Kuwaiti has been sentenced to 70 years in prison just for criticizing the Emir. Another Kuwaiti has been sentenced to 62 years just for speaking about Saudi Arabia in a negative tone. Many others have also been sentenced to prison for similar matters.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

203 participants joined from Saudi Arabia, the percentage of supporters of the transformation to a constitutional kingdom was high and exceeded the Kuwaiti Sample.

As for fear of the control of the current religious trend, half of the Saudi sample revealed this fear. This part should be examined in depth to discover the reasons behind this division in the Saudi society. The results also confirmed that the vast majority of Saudi's had an apparent desire to change the current situation and transfer to a constitutional monarchy. Regarding the Saudis fear of expressing their opinions of supporting the constitutional kingdom in public, the percentage was high and reflected the sense of fear experienced by their society. In Saudi people have been executed just for standing up against the regime peacefully, this extreme and horrific reaction by the government led many Saudis to remain quite or immigrate abroad to express their opinions.

Kingdom of Bahrain

106 participated from Bahrain, the percentage of those who supported the transition to a constitutional kingdom was among the highest in the Gulf States. The rate of voters who said they were not concerned about disturbances in case of a change to a constitutional kingdom was also huge and may reflect the peacefulness of the Bahraini community.

It is important to note that when talking about Bahrain, Bahrainis have a different type of experience compared to other Gulf countries. They fought the coup against the 1973 constitution and then entered a critical phase that ended in 2000. Bahrain was in a relatively quiet period until the Arab Spring came and encouraged the people to demand more freedoms, leading to the February uprising in 2011.

Bahrain then entered a dark period, and the security grip on the country increased dramatically, causing a human rights disaster that was recorded in the report of the international investigator Bassiouni. This tragedy resulted in people being killed and executed without fair trials.

Oman

30 participants joined from Oman, the majority of them supported the transition to a constitutional kingdom, and the majority did not fear the dominance of radical religious currents. This may be due to the accepting experience of Oman. In Oman, different religious groups live peacefully and in harmony. As for fear of freedom becoming anarchy in the event of turning to a constitutional kingdom, most of the sample did not have this concern. Finally, the Omani majority agrees that converting to a constitutional kingdom will benefit their society on many levels.

Qatar

Qatar participated with only 20 participants. Most of the respondents supported the shift to a constitutional kingdom. The Qatari sample differed from its counterparts in the Gulf States where the biggest obstacle to shift to a constitutional kingdom was the corrupted regimes. Finally, most the Qatari's voted that the best government system would be a constitutional kingdom.

United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates was the least Gulf country that participated in this survey (16). Most of the sample supported a transformation to a constitutional kingdom, while the biggest obstacles to this transformation was attributed to both the corrupted regimes and the lack of awareness among the people.

Based on the above

We at Madarak for Political and Strategic Consultations (MPSC), put this report in the hands of those interested in the Gulf affairs to benefit from the results from this survey. We believe that to prevent more problems from floating and violence from reoccurring in this region; there is a need to be more transparent with our people.

The Gulf States have long used violence and security force to restrain freedom, democracy and any peaceful demands of its people. Today, however, we see a dead end, as evidenced by the harsh sentences imposed on activists living in Gulf countries. Also, the withdrawal of the funeral, prevention of travel, and murder outside the law as happened recently with the journalist Jamal Khashoggi are more reasons to be concerned and alerted. History is changing, and new generations differ in the way they use technological revolution which has previously been monopolised by regimes.

The Gulf ruling families may be reassured that their people are sticking to them as traditional symbols of their societies, but no one ensures that unlimited support will continue in the foreseeable future. Developments are accelerating at an unprecedented pace, history is monitoring all moves, and it may look like that the Gulf States now seem to be under control. However, there is no guarantee that this will remain the case, especially with continued pressure on people to pursue legal and security measures and to issue laws that violate all human rights conventions and related international conventions signed by the Gulf States themselves.

One of the reasons for adding the question “If the Gulf States want to turn to constitutional kingdoms, will the West stand against it?” was to recognize

the opinions of GCC citizens towards the Western position. The results revealed that a large proportion still does not trust Western's intentions, although a more significant percentage seems not to be worried about them.

Future research direction

Although the sample in this study included a decent number of participants (778), which is a number that is scientifically reliable and accepted by institutions and journals for publication, it should be noted that some participating countries such as Qatar and the UAE joined in small numbers.

Further, the reason this survey was short was to encourage participants to complete the survey without overwhelming them with questions. Nonetheless, this should not prevent future researchers from including a larger number of items to ascertain the orientation of the Gulf regarding their desire to become a constitutional kingdom.