

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO)

Study Guide

2003 Invasion of Iraq

**Under-Secretary General:
Eda Dora Aksular
Academic Assistant:
Günselin Şanier**



MUNIFL'25

NATO STUDY GUIDE

THE 2003 INVASION OF IRAQ

Under Secretary General- Eda Dora Aksular



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2. Letter from Secretary General

Esteemed Delegates,

I would like to welcome you all to the 2nd official session of Izmir Science High School Model United Nations Conference as the Secretary General. I am a sophomore in our school and this conference was actually a dream for me when I first came to this school as a freshman student last year. I had no idea about MUN conferences then. I was just a girl who wanted to do something to improve myself and I joined our school's MUN club, not really expecting anything. But I found out that it is what I want to do in high school.

In this conference, our aim is to welcome you all and provide you with anything you need. We will be sure that all your needs are provided, you are having fun, and most importantly you are learning about politics and diplomacy.

As the executive team, we try to make sure that our conference has everything you need. With our incredible academic team, prepare yourselves for the best committees you have ever been in. And with our organization team, you can be sure that all of your needs will be covered patiently from top to bottom.

As the secretary general of this conference, I suggest you to read your study guides properly and do research about your agenda item. I hope you all have a productive conference full of unforgettable memories at MUNIFL'25.

All The Best!
Hazal Kuş
Secretary General

3. Letter from the Under Secretary General

Honorable Delegates, I am Eda Dora Aksular, your Under Secretary General and I am extremely delighted to be part of this committee working on this agenda item.

First and foremost, I would like to show my appreciation for the opportunity to welcome you to MUNIFL.

May this time be productive.

My hope for you is that you create relationships, participate in debates, and develop diplomatic skills while having fun. I am convinced that you will excel in this committee and I have created this study guide to help you. Please read it before the conference to gain understanding into the issue.

This study guide aims to provide important information before you start doing research. Before you start, I want to wish you luck in your research and encourage you to go over the study guide.

This guide provides an overview of the topic, but further research is necessary to fully understand the problem and develop appropriate solutions.

This study guide will help you better understand the issue before researching your country's policy.

Best of luck
Eda Dora Aksular

4. Introduction to the committee:

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a military and political alliance established throughout the Cold War as a strategy to mitigate Soviet influence—encompassing all participants of the Warsaw Pact—and military involvement in central and Eastern Europe following the conclusion of World War II. NATO was established on April 4, 1949, in Washington D.C. (Milestones in the History of U.S. Foreign Relations - Office of the Historian, n.d.), where the heads of 12 nations (Haglund, 2024) ratified the North Atlantic Treaty, consenting to its 14 provisions. (NATO, n.d.-c).

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, NATO was redefined as a collaborative security organization aimed at promoting conversation with former Warsaw Pact countries and to intervene and manage disputes in the European periphery, including the Balkans or Eastern Europe (Haglund, 2024). Despite these being a few of their roles, NATO's primary The aim is to act as a unified defense system if any of its member nations is assaulted or endangered by any outside power to NATO.

This is defined by Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, which declares that “a military assault on one or more of them in An assault on Europe or North America will be regarded as an assault on all of them. (NATO, n.d.-c). To reach these objectives, NATO has formed numerous various partnerships and discussions, primarily focused on geographic location, involving nations outside of NATO. These consist of the Partnership for Peace, comprising 18 nations from Eastern Europe and Central Asia, is comprised; the Mediterranean Dialogue, involving 7 countries from the Middle East and North Africa Countries in the MENA region are included, along with the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative, which consists of 4 Gulf states.nations. In addition, NATO has various scattered allies referred to as “Partners across the world,” made up of 9 nations in Oceania, Asia, and America (NATO, n.d.-a).

5. BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Iraq is a country located in the heart of the Middle East bordering with Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, Kuwait and Iran.

Iraq has one of the richest histories in the world since the territories of modern day. The state of the country of Iraq that we know today was created in the post World War I era, when it became one of the parts of the Ottoman empire that was given to the British Empire after the end of the war.

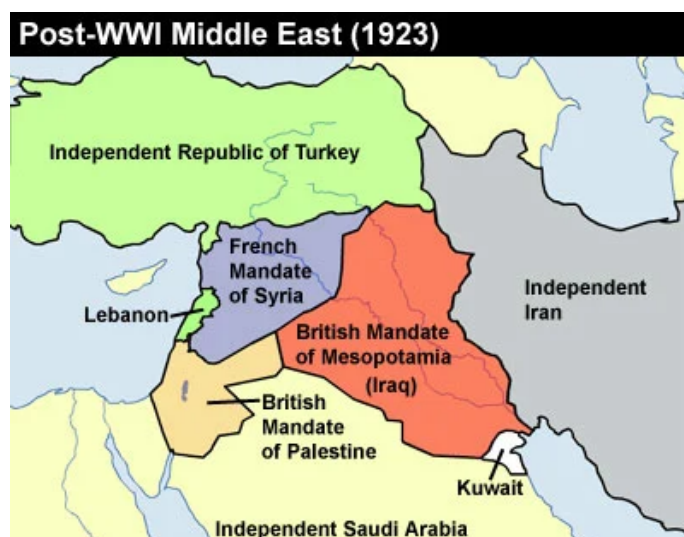
Political instability and lack of peace have always been a relevant discussion in Iraq, since it has been one of the most unstable and war torn nations in the world with the first major armed conflict taking place in 1920 (Iraqi Revolution).

After the end of WW1 the ottoman empire had fallen and the division of it among the victorious nations had taken place and became a key priority. The wealth and natural amenities that the Ottoman Empire possessed many European nations such as the United Kingdom which became very keen on adding on new territories to their already established country.

This was followed upon by the League of Nations, a key forerunner of the United Nations approving a British mandate of modern day Iraq.

The British had established and continuously supported a Hashemite monarchy that ruled Iraq for the 17 years it was under the British regime.

The British ruling ended in 1932 and Iraq finally gained its independence.



Even though the British had no formal association with the Iraqi government, the two nations had continued to have close economic and military relations. The close relations that the two nations maintained led to multiple uprisings and revolts that climaxed with a **pro-Axis power** coup taking place as an attempt to overthrow the pro-British government in ruling . In the fear of the Axis powers gaining influence in the area, the British had proceeded to launch a military intervention and regained control of Iraq after the end of the Anglo-Iraqi War.

(The "Pro-Axis Powers" refers to countries that supported or were aligned with the Axis Powers during World War II. The main Axis Powers were Germany, Italy, and Japan. Pro-Axis Powers were nations or groups that either joined the Axis or sympathized with it, assisting them in the war effort. Some examples include Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria.)

5.1 Kurdish separatism in Iraq

Kurdish area in northern Iraq. With 80% of the Iraqi land troops engaged in the battle and around 105,000 casualties, the conflict concluded in a deadlock in 1970. Following the conclusion of the initial Kurdish-Iraqi conflict, the two rival factions achieved a peacekeeping accord in 1970.

In particular, the accord was among the earliest and most significant efforts to address the Kurdish-Iraqi dispute, offering Kurds several self-sufficient outcomes. It assured the creation of three Kurdish provinces, along with additional actions, such as positions in local governance entities and organizations, and was anticipated to be implemented within four years following the agreement's signing.

Nevertheless Due to Iraq's commitment to a plan for Arabization, the peace agreement did not succeed and as a result, increased conflict arose, culminating in the second Kurdish-Iraqi war from 1974 to 1975.

With that noted, the most severe of all conflicts took place during Saddam Hussein's time in influence throughout the Iran-Iraq conflict.

To be more precise, in 1983 the Kurdish armed groups in northern Iraq rose up against Saddam Hussein in pursuit of independence. In reaction, Saddam Hussein initiated a large-scale assault in areas populated by Kurds utilizing armed forces powers. Moreover, he initiated multiple chemical assaults on non-combatants. Ultimately, conflict was continuing and escalating until 1991, when the global community announced a no-fly area in northern Iraq, while also guaranteeing the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Kurds.

The agreement that ensued in late October 1991 allowed for Kurdish forces to assert their control in northern Iraq and consequently commence the rebuilding of the area. Infrastructures were reconstructed and a Kurdish government was established, which both assisted in the rehabilitation of the displaced Kurdish population. The rebuilding continued until the onset of the 2nd millennium when a parliamentary democracy was established in 2003, leading to economic growth. Finally, in 2005, the constitution of Iraq recognized a self-governing Kurdish area in northern Iraq. Currently, this area is managed by the regional Kurdish administration and is the sole existing completely autonomous Kurdish area.

5.2 The Saddam Hussein Era

On 16 July 1979, President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr was ousted by his cousin Saddam Hussein. Under the leadership of Saddam Hussein, since 1968 Iraq had transformed into a political state which led to Saddam becoming the most powerful man in the regime. He achieved complete power and influence over the government by appointing close relatives to key government positions.

Hussein managed to use his power and influence to expand his territory first by invading Iran, in the Iran-Iraq War and later invading Kuwait.

With its enhanced economic and political position at the end of the 1970s, based on extensive oil revenues and a monopoly on political power inside the country, it appeared that the conditions were ripe for an Iraq under Saddam Hussein to assume his dominant position in the region.

Throughout the Iran- Iraq conflict, chemical weapons, particularly poison gas, were frequently employed, resulting in the numbers of casualties increasing dramatically. The Iran-Iraq War concluded in 1988 without a clear resolution or winner selected. A few years later, specifically in 1991, Saddam tried to **annex** Kuwait, signifying the beginning of the Gulf War.

(Added the territory to his own territory by appropriation)

His short-lived annexation of Kuwait turned out to be a failure, following a coalition led by the United States and Great Britain that expelled Iraqi troops from Kuwait. Even after his defeat, Saddam Hussein stayed in power and kept advancing his arsenal of chemical, biological, and atomic weapons. Saddam Hussein similarly took advantage of UN policies and initiatives to acquire greater wealth and military strength, while allowing his citizens to exist in cruel circumstances. For example, amid the embargo that the UN had placed on Iraq,

By obstructing Iraqi oil exports, which served as Iraq's main income source, the UN established a initiative named "Oil for Food". Throughout the program, Iraq would reportedly sell merely sufficient Oil, to acquire food for its hungry population. Rather than utilizing the funds produced for their designated purpose, Saddam Hussein misused the programs, gaining as up to \$1.7 billion.

This resulted in the ongoing anguish of famished civilian communities, while bolstering the Hussein administration. Throughout this period, multiple sanctions were enacted on Iraq by the UN Security Council for not adhering to resolutions that were enacted.

Additionally, Iraq emerged as a center for terrorist operations, with the United States as its main focus and emerged as the origin of terrorist groups such as Al-Qaeda. The terrorist activity in Iraq, the nationalization of its oil reserves, and the constant violation of human rights by Saddam Hussein's government then lead to the **invasion of Iraq in 2003** by the United States.

6. Introduction to the agenda item:

6.1 The 2003 Invasion of Iraq

The Iraq War, that started in 2003 and ended in 2011, consisted of two main phases. The first of these phases was a brief, conventionally fought war in March–April 2003, in which a combined force of troops from the United States and Great Britain (with smaller contingents from several other countries) invaded Iraq and rapidly managed to defeat Iraqi military and paramilitary forces. This also led to the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime and ruling.

The Second, and longest phase of the Iraq War, erupted with the fall of the Saddam Hussein regime and led to a massive wave of looting and chaos taking place. The previously mentioned actions could not be halted as there was no official government, The police force and military were set up following the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime. The absence of order led to the emergence of the Iraqi insurgency and a surge of sectarian violence that would endure for many years ahead.

The occupying troops were responsible for reinstating order and

arrangement in the region. Various guerrilla factions, such as the Free Iraqi Army, Al-Qaeda, and Ansar Al Islam and numerous others, held Iraqi lands creating the Iraqi Insurgency. The absence of consistency and acknowledged adversary in occupied Iraq rendered it particularly challenging for the coalition troops to reestablish order, as they had to combat various, shifting, and frequently unidentified rebel factions

After the war began, administration officials were confident that the United States would quickly prevail. For a time, it appeared they would be right: U.S. and allied forces became easily overwhelmed the Iraqi army.

By April 9, U.S. forces and Iraqi civilians brought down a statue of Saddam Hussein in a Baghdad square. And on May 1, Bush stood on the deck of the aircraft carrier named USS Abraham Lincoln – in front of a banner proclaiming “Mission Accomplished” – and declared that major combat operations had ended.

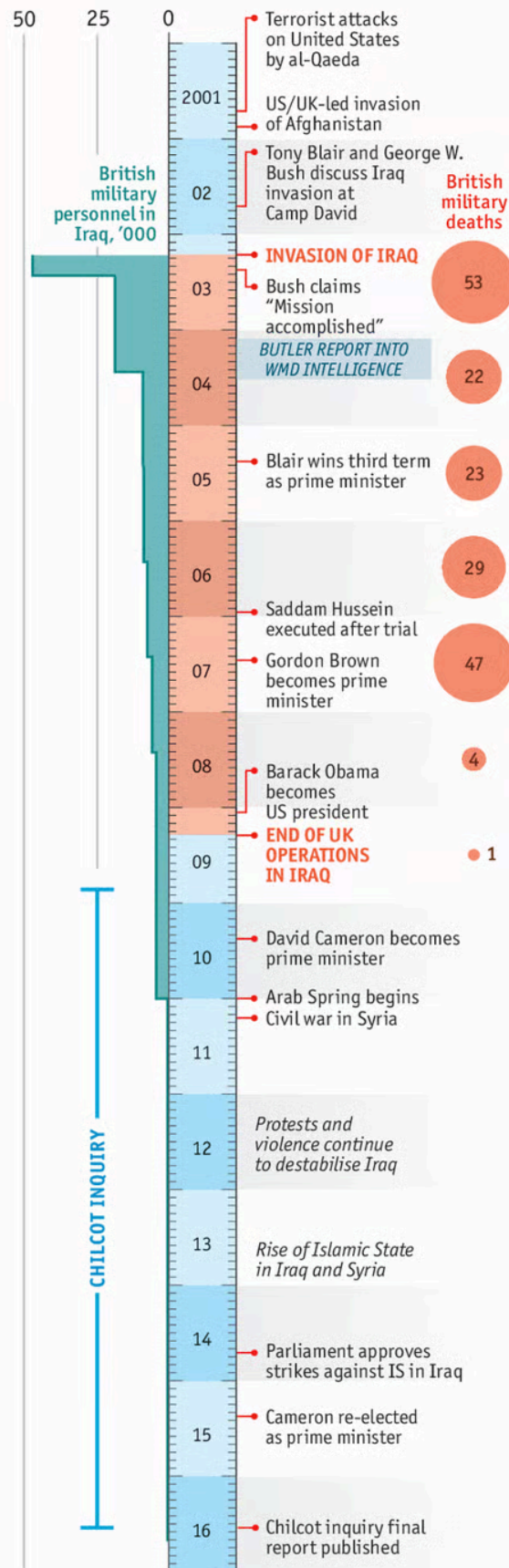
Groups that are in the minority, particularly Christians and Sunni Muslims were attacked, with bombings and suicide attacks in places of worship like mosques and churches being quite frequently.

Casualties in the Iraqi insurgency were exceedingly high, with certain estimates with casualties on the Iraqi side reaching up to 650,000 and casualties on the coalition side reaching up to 50,000. Reconstructing the Iraqi government proved to be particularly challenging because of the reality that the 35 years of sanctions enforced by the UN had impacted the Iraqi economy
Broken.

The Second Phase of the Iraqi War ultimately concluded in 2011 following the Iraqi insurgency which was overcome, resulting in the creation of a government elected by the people, and the withdrawal of American forces by the close of 2011.

Quick invasion, long inquiry

Britain in Iraq



Sources: Ministry of Defence; *The Economist*

7. TIMELINE OF EVENTS

1920 - League of Nations reaffirms British control in Iraq

The League of Nations formally acknowledges British control over Iraq, sparking widespread resentment. This leads to a full-scale revolution in Iraq as the people protest against British colonial influence.

1932 - British rule over Iraq ends

Iraq becomes an independent state, but British influence continues as they retain military bases in the region, thus maintaining a degree of control over Iraqi affairs.

1941 - Anglo-Iraqi War

A pro-Nazi coup takes place in Iraq, leading to the Anglo-Iraqi War. The British respond by launching military action to reassert their control, as they see the coup as a threat to their strategic interests.

1943 - Second revolt of the Barzani Kurds

The Barzani Kurds, who are one of the prominent Kurdish groups, lead a second revolt against the Iraqi government. The Iraqi forces crush this revolt, but the Kurdish issue continues to simmer in the background.

1958 - Left-wing military coup

A left-wing oriented military coup takes place, overthrowing the previous pro-British government. This marks a significant shift in Iraq's political alignment, as the new government pursues a policy more independent from British influence.

1959 - The Mosul Uprising

Arab nationalists rise in Mosul but are defeated. As a result, Iraq does not join the United Arab Republic (UAR), an idea for a political union between Arab countries, thus keeping its sovereignty.

1961 - First Iraqi-Kurdish War

Tensions between the Iraqi government and the Kurdish population exploded into the First Iraqi-Kurdish War. The conflict ends with an agreement to create an autonomous Kurdish region in Iraq.

1974 - Second Iraqi-Kurdish War

The Second Iraqi-Kurdish War takes place, and despite the ongoing fighting, the Iraqi government agrees to grant limited autonomy to the Kurdish provinces, especially in the north.

1979 - Saddam Hussein becomes president

Saddam Hussein takes control of Iraq, marking the beginning of his long rule. He becomes a central figure in Iraqi politics and implements harsh policies to consolidate power.

1980 - The Iran-Iraq War begins

A brutal conflict between Iraq, led by Saddam Hussein, and Iran, which lasts for eight years. It starts over territorial disputes and political differences and leads to massive casualties but ends in a stalemate, with no clear winner.

1988 - Iran-Iraq War ends

The war concludes in 1988 with neither side achieving a decisive victory. The conflict leaves deep scars on both countries, but both agree to a ceasefire brokered by the UN.

1990 - The Gulf War begins

Iraq, under Saddam Hussein, invades Kuwait, prompting a response from the international community, led by the United States. The war ends with the defeat of Iraqi forces and the destruction of much of Kuwait's infrastructure and significant damage to Iraq.

1995 - The Iraqi-Kurdish Civil War

A civil war breaks out between rival Kurdish factions in northern Iraq. This conflict ends with the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kurdish-controlled areas, which later contributes to the region gaining de facto autonomy.

1995 - The Oil for Food program is launched

The UN initiates the Oil for Food program to help Iraq's population cope with the humanitarian crisis caused by the sanctions imposed after the Gulf War.

1995 - Saddam Hussein wins referendum allowing him to stay in power

Saddam Hussein holds a referendum in Iraq, which allegedly confirms his continued rule, despite widespread allegations of fraud and manipulation of the process.

1998 - Saddam Hussein expels UN weapons inspectors

Saddam Hussein expels UN weapons inspectors from Iraq, citing accusations of spying. This raises international concerns about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction (WMD) programs.

1998 - Operation Desert Fox

The United States and Britain launch a series of aerial bombings, Operation Desert Fox, aimed at destroying Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programs, particularly nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons facilities.

2003 - The first phase of the Iraq War begins

A US-led coalition invades Iraq, overthrowing Saddam Hussein's regime. This marks the start of the Iraq War, which results in the removal of Saddam Hussein from power and the collapse of the Iraqi government.

2006 - Saddam Hussein is charged with crimes against humanity and executed

Saddam Hussein is tried and convicted for crimes against humanity, including the 1982 massacre of Shiite Muslims, and is executed by hanging.

2006 - The second phase of the Iraq War begins

This phase sees the emergence of a violent insurgency against the US-led occupation. The Iraqi government, with help from coalition forces, works to fight the insurgency and stabilize the country.

2008 - The Iraqi government signs a Security Pact with the United States

Iraq signs a security agreement with the United States, which outlines the gradual withdrawal of American troops from Iraq by the end of 2011. This marks a significant moment in Iraq's post-war sovereignty.

2011 - Oil exports from Iraq resume

Following years of instability and conflict, Iraq's oil exports resume, marking an important step in the country's economic recovery after the Iraq War.

2013 - Insurgency intensifies

Iraq finds itself again in a sectarian conflict as insurgent groups, particularly Sunni extremists, intensify their attacks against the Shiite-majority government. This period is marked by a rise in violence and instability.

2014 - The Iraqi Civil War begins

A full-scale civil war erupts as terrorist groups, including the Islamic State (ISIS), begin seizing territory. The Iraqi government, supported by a coalition of international forces like the United States and Great Britain, fights to reclaim territory and combat the insurgents.

2015 - Large offensive is launched to recapture Islamic State-occupied areas

Iraq, supported by international allies, launches a major military offensive to recapture areas occupied by the Islamic State (ISIS). This marks a turning point in the struggle against ISIS, focusing on reclaiming key territories.

2016 - The Iraqi government regains control of key areas

Iraq regains control of strategic cities like Fallujah and Mosul from ISIS, marking significant victories in the campaign to drive the group out of Iraq. These victories are a sign of progress in the fight against terrorism.

2017 - The government announces further areas captured back from ISIS

The Iraqi government continues its campaign against ISIS, announcing the recapture of additional territories from the militant group. This is seen as a major step in the effort to restore order and sovereignty.

September 2017 - Non-binding referendum on Kurdish independence

In September 2017, the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) holds a non-binding referendum on independence, which results in overwhelming support for secession. However, the referendum is not recognized by the Iraqi government or the international community, leading to tensions between the KRG and Baghdad.

8. RELEVANT COUNTRIES

United States of America (USA)

The United States of America have been one of the countries that was blamed for the main creation of the conflict and instability in the country. The United States have participated and been involved in most wars in Iraq's modern history, with its involvement often heavily criticized by the public and fellow nations. The United States of America played a massive role in the Iraq War while it was ongoing, as well as its aftermath that led to the Iraqi Civil War and is often blamed for the situation it left Iraq in 2011, both politically and financially.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is the largest and most influential Arab nation with a Sunni majority. Consequently, the ongoing disputes between Shia and Sunni factions have led nations such as Saudi Arabia to provide assistance and financing to groups that can aid the frequently marginalized Sunni belief. In countries ruled by Shia, such as Iraq, numerous claims of Saudi Arabia financing entities like IS have emerged, establishing Saudi Arabia as a significant force in the Middle East overall, and Iraq in particular.

Iran

Iran has been a country known to have tense relations with Iraq over the years, ranging from the 1980 war to their relatively stronger relations in the post Saddam Hussein era. Iraq has also led a military intervention in Iraq in 2014 and has been cooperating with the Iraqi government in the fight against the Islamic States.

The Islamic State (IS)

The Islamic State is a Jihadist Islamic organization that is claimed to back the Sunni Islamic belief. It aims for the consolidation of the whole Middle East into a single, unified Islamic State, while purging what they view as the "inferior" Shia Muslim communities. IS gained international attention when it exploited the political turmoil in Iraq and Syria to seize substantial portions of the previously mentioned areas. IS has

also been closely monitored and connected to terrorist assaults both in Iraq and overseas, along with many other heinous acts. IS stands for one of the wealthiest terrorist groups globally and possesses highly skilled and armed force of zealots, along with significant sway over additional Muslim extremist organizations globally. The Iraqi government has sought support in combating IS and a coalition of nations, such as the US and Great Britain, has been formed with the objective of overcoming IS.

9. POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

9.1 Previous Actions,

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has also made significant attempts to resolve the crisis in Iraq. Some of NATO'S attempts go as far back as Saddam Hussein's ruling of Iraq in the early 2000s. The main goal of the organization mostly remained as giving support and required knowledge to the Iraqi Security forces and troops.

The United States of America, together with various coalitions of other nations, have also been working to address the problem of Iraq. Historically, their efforts have been considered failure-prone and sometimes even counterproductive. As noted earlier, the US incursion into Iraq, which is the latest effort the United

Countries tasked with reestablishing order and political stability in the region left the nation of Iraq in a bleak economic conditions along with a government identified as both dishonest and unable. The U.S. invasion of Iraq is viewed by many as a move to seek revenge. The attacks on September 11 and have faced criticism from people globally. As proposed formerly, the power vacuum that the US established by toppling Saddam Hussein, was not entirely fulfilled by the elected government. Following the exit of US forces, it ultimately became occupied by terrorist groups, including IS.

10. Actions to take:

- Organization and formation of a clear militant alliance of member nations that will exchange knowledge, information, and defense resources gear with the aim of combating IS and other terror-linked organizations in the area,
- The removal of all foreign military forces from Iraq to resolve the conflict. interests in the region and therefore no longer define the Iraqi Civil War as a substitute conflict,
- Urging for new, UN-monitored elections to be held in Iraq, to facilitate choose a leader through democratic elections who has the backing of the majority of the population and thereby moving one step nearer to attaining political stability in the area,
- Increasing awareness regarding the humanitarian and refugee crisis that the conflict has generated, to secure funding for organizations assisting displaced individuals or asylum seekers, as well as to encourage individuals to offer their time, engage actively and assist the objectives of the previously mentioned organizations,
- Developing a long-term financial strategy for the Iraqi government with the support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), so that the nation can ultimately achieve financial success,
- Creating new trade agreements to enhance oil income (Iraq's top source of revenue) and thereby create the way to a successful and secure economics.

11. Key Words:

Anglo-Iraqi War (1941)

- The Anglo-Iraqi War of 1941 was a conflict in which the United Kingdom sought to restore its influence in Iraq after a coup that removed the pro-British government. The war marked the British effort to maintain control over Iraq's oil resources during World War II. The consequences of this war helped shape Iraq's post-independence foreign relations.

Barzani Kurds

- The Barzani Kurds refer to a Kurdish political faction in Iraq, primarily led by the Barzani family. This group has been a major player in Iraq's Kurdish autonomy struggles, particularly in the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) in Northern Iraq. Their role has been pivotal in post-Saddam Iraq and in the fight against ISIS, as well as in advocating for Kurdish independence.

Shiite

- A branch of Islam followed by many Iraqis. It's a significant part of the Iraqi population.

Sunni

- Another branch of Islam, which is also followed by many Iraqis, but in smaller numbers compared to Shiites.

Ba'ath Party

- A political party in Iraq led by Saddam Hussein, focused on Arab unity and socialism, but later became associated with his dictatorship.

Insurgency

- A rebellion or armed resistance against the government, often involving guerrilla tactics.

Secular

- Refers to not being influenced by religious beliefs, often used to describe a government or leadership that is not based on religion.

UN Sanctions

- Restrictions imposed by the United Nations to limit a country's trade or activities, usually in response to violations of international law.

Chemical Weapons

- A type of weapon that uses toxic chemicals to harm or kill people. Saddam Hussein used these during the Iraq-Iran War and against Kurdish civilians.

WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction)

- Weapons that can kill or harm large numbers of people at once, such as nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons.

Sharia Law

- A legal system based on Islamic principles, often affecting things like family law, crime, and social matters in some countries.

Sectarian Violence

- Violence between different groups within the same country, often based on religious or ethnic differences (like between Sunni and Shiite Muslims).

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