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AKAMUN'24
JOINT CRISIS COMMITTEE

2003 The Second Gulf War

Table of Contents

- 1. Letter From the Secretary-General*
- 2. Glossary*
- 3. Introduction*
- 4. Before the Iraq War*
- 5. Timeline*
- 6. Relationship with Other Countries*
- 7. Cabinet Members*
- 8. Resources and Further Readings*

1. Letter From the Secretary-General

Dear Delegates,

It is with great pleasure that I extend a warm welcome to each delegate that has taken a piece of their time apart to participate in AKA Model United Nations 2024. As the Secretary General of this conference I am utmost excited to witness your debates concerning global issues that plague the foundation of our world.

As you gather to begin your journey, I advise you approach this agenda with great interest and an open mind to allow for ease of communication. Over many years of evolution humanity has improved their methods of communication in many ways. As a result of that

organizations such as the United Nations were able to be created. Here we gather to represent and celebrate these things by trying to help with such problems.

Aka Model United Nations is a place where you will be able to enhance your communication and critical thinking skills so never shy away from taking a place upfront. Voice your ideas, discuss with others and help the only world we have be greater.

I wish you a rewarding and prosperous Model United Nations Experience.

Best Regards

HÜSEYİN CAN ÇETİNTAŞ

Secretary General

2. Glossary

Al-Qaeda: Al-Qaeda is a transnational terrorist organization founded by Osama bin Laden in the late 1980s. It aims to establish an Islamic caliphate through global jihad and has been responsible for major terrorist attacks, including 9/11. Al-Qaeda's ideology and actions have influenced many other extremist groups worldwide.

Buffer Zone: A buffer zone is a neutral area created between two conflicting groups or regions to prevent confrontation. It is often established for security purposes and may be monitored by peacekeepers. Such zones are common in conflict-prone areas to reduce tensions and promote stability.

“De-Baathification” Policy: The “de-Baathification” policy was implemented in Iraq after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion to remove members of Saddam Hussein's Baath Party from positions of power. This policy aimed to dismantle the regime's influence but led to unemployment and resentment among former party members, fueling unrest.

Islamic State (IS): The Islamic State (IS), also known as ISIS or ISIL, is a jihadist extremist group that seeks to establish a caliphate governed by strict Sharia law. It gained global attention for its brutal tactics, including terrorism and genocide, and controlled large parts of Iraq and Syria from 2014 to 2017. IS has since been largely defeated but remains a threat.

Kurd: The Kurds are an ethnic group native to the mountainous regions of the Middle East, spanning Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Syria. They have their distinct language and culture but lack an independent state, making them a minority in the countries where they reside. In Iraq, Kurds play a significant role in politics and control a semi-autonomous region.

Militant: A militant is a person who uses aggressive or violent methods to support a political, religious, or social cause. Militants are often involved in armed conflict and may belong to insurgent or extremist groups. They differ from regular soldiers as they usually operate outside state military structures.

Mortar: A mortar is a short, portable artillery weapon used to launch explosive projectiles at high angles. It is commonly used in military combat to attack targets that are out of direct sight, such as behind walls or in trenches. Mortars are known for their simplicity and effectiveness in both offense and defense.

Neoconservative: A neoconservative is someone who supports an assertive foreign policy to promote democracy and American values abroad, often through military intervention. This political ideology gained prominence in the U.S. during the 2000s, particularly under the George W. Bush administration. Neoconservatives strongly supported the Iraq War.

Shiite: Shiite refers to a branch of Islam that believes leadership should descend from the Prophet Muhammad's family, particularly through his cousin and son-in-law, Ali. Shiites form the majority in countries like Iran and Iraq. They often have distinct religious practices compared to Sunni Muslims, another major branch of Islam.

Sunni: Sunni Muslims form the largest branch of Islam and follow the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad as passed down by his companions. Sunnis emphasize the collective community (ummah) and elect leadership based on consensus rather than lineage. Sunni-Shiite tensions have historically influenced politics and conflicts in the Middle East.

UNSCOM (United Nations Special Commission): UNSCOM was a UN organization established after the Gulf War to inspect and ensure the dismantling of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction (WMD) programs. It operated in the 1990s but faced significant resistance and non-cooperation from Saddam Hussein's regime. UNSCOM's findings played a role in shaping international policy toward Iraq.

WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction): Weapons of Mass Destruction refer to highly destructive weapons capable of causing large-scale devastation and loss of life. These include nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. In the context of the Iraq War, WMDs were cited as a justification for military intervention, though their existence in Iraq was later disputed.

3. Introduction

The Iraq-American War was a significant turning point in history when the United States launched a military intervention in Iraq in 2003. This war went beyond being a conflict between just two countries worldwide and deeply affected the political structure of the Middle East, the understanding of global security, and the balance of power in international relations. Contrary to expectations, the operation that America launched to overthrow the Saddam Hussein regime caused great chaos, a civil war-like situation, and an increase in large-scale terrorist activities in Iraq.

At the beginning of the war, America decided to intervene to eliminate this threat by claiming that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and could transfer these weapons to terrorist

groups. In addition, it was emphasized that Saddam Hussein's oppressive regime threatened security in the Middle East. However, the process that followed the rapid victory expected at the beginning of the war was shaped by the instability and internal conflicts in Iraq after Saddam. After the coalition forces quickly captured Baghdad, sectarian violence and ethnic conflicts in Iraq grew. This situation has deepened the security gap in the region and expanded the global effects of the war.

The Iraq-American War has gone beyond being just a military struggle between America and Iraq. This war has shaken global political and diplomatic equations. The United Nations has not approved America's intervention and many countries around the world have opposed the legitimacy of the war. Major powers such as France, Russia, and China have argued that the war is against international law and have shared this with the international community. Despite this criticism, America continued its operations with coalition forces, but in the later years of the war, the strengthening of resistance movements and terrorist groups in Iraq made it difficult for America to achieve its goals. In addition, as the cost of the war increased, public opinion in America became increasingly concerned about the legitimacy of the war.

This war went far beyond being a regional conflict, changing the balance of power in the Middle East and leaving long-lasting effects on the global level. America's military presence in Iraq affected the security strategies of other countries in the region. Iran's strengthening of relations with the Shiite population in Iraq after America's intervention was an important development that changed the balance in the region. Similarly, while some Gulf countries such as Saudi Arabia were concerned about the instability in Iraq, the necessity of new strategies in the fight against terrorism worldwide emerged.

Although the reconstruction process began in Iraq after the war, instability continued. After the fall of Baghdad, rebuilding Iraq and ensuring social peace became a very difficult task. The loss of many civilian lives, the displacement of millions of people, and the destruction of infrastructure revealed the extent of the devastation of the war. America maintained its military presence in Iraq to ensure its security and rebuild the country, but over time this situation was criticized by both the people of the region and the global community.

The Iraq-American War, with its long-term effects, reshaped not only the Middle East but also the global understanding of security. The new threats brought by the war, especially the global dimension of terrorism, led to a reconsideration of security policies in the world. At the same time, the effects of the war on America's international image were permanent. America was subjected to a great deal of questioning, both in domestic public opinion and internationally, regarding the legitimacy and consequences of the war.

The Iraq-American War was not only a military conflict but also a process in which international relations, global security policies, and regional dynamics were transformed. This war is still considered a turning point that shaped many developments in the region and the world today.

4. Before the Iraq War

4.1 The First Gulf War

4.1.1 Before the First Gulf War

Saddam Hussein was a ruthless dictator who ruled Iraq from 1979 to 2003. He was born in Tikrit to an Arab-Sunni family. He espoused an ideology named Ba'athism, which is a mix of Arab nationalism and Arab socialism. In 1957, he joined the Ba'ath Party and in 1966 he joined the Baghdad-based Ba'ath parties. He was chosen by Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr as vice president of Iraq, because of his contributions to the 17 July revolution. During his vice-president years, he took the essential decisions and he had great effects on the country. He took formal control in 1979 and became the president. The decisions he took were often controversial because he came from an Arab-Sunni family and these two factors formed the basis of all the decisions he made. He did not have good feelings or opinions toward the minorities living in Iraq and often discriminated against them. Most importantly, he did not have positive opinions about Kurds living mostly in the northern part of the country, which backfired on him completely in the Iraq War. He presided over the Second Iraqi-Kurdish war when he was a vice-president which resulted in the defeat of the Kurds and during his presidential years he ordered multiple campaigns against Kurds. Resulted in the defeat of the Kurds. The second factor was that he was a Sunni. He also had a bad attitude towards Shiites because of the religious understanding between them.

In 1980, he ordered the invasion of Iraq, to end the Iranian calls against the governance of Hussein, which had devastating effects on Iran. These wars were a sign of his reputation and he wanted to capture a province that had an Arab majority. After the end of the invasion (nearly 8 years after the Iran-Iraq war started), Saddam Hussein started a campaign against Kurdish people who sided with Iran during the war. This act was considered a genocide by Human Rights Watch.

In 1990, Saddam Hussein accused his old ally, Kuwait, of stealing the Iraqi Oil Reserves and invading the country, initiating the Gulf War.

4.1.2 The First Gulf War

Kuwait was a small but wealthy country due to the oil reserves in its lands, which over the years lent Iraq money for the wars Iraq had gone through. After the Iran War, a conflict arose: Kuwait asked for the money back but Iraq was not in a position to return the money. Upon this, Saddam Hussein accused Kuwait of harming Iraq's economy by producing too much oil and ordered the invasion of Kuwait on August 2, 1990. Although Kuwait announced that they would reduce oil production after the invasion started, Iraq found other reasons, like slant-drilling, to continue the invasion. Within two days the Iraqi government created a puppet government in Kuwait. Meanwhile, on August 3, the United Nations demanded the withdrawal of all Iraqi forces from the country, and by August 6, the United Nations imposed a complete trade embargo. In November, the United Nations gave Iraq an ultimatum: they would either leave the country by 15 January or the UN would take necessary actions to

provide security. By January, the United States, England, Saudi Arabia, and 34 other countries had formed a coalition that agreed to join the war if necessary. On January 15, the coalition started bombing the Iraqi forces, after Saddam Hussein did not act under the ultimatum, and continued for the following 37 days. On February 23, the coalition decided to continue the war from lands and sent more than 800.000 troops to the region. When Saddam Hussein realized he had no chance of winning because his troops lacked capacity, he declared a ceasefire on February 27, 1991, and the war officially ended.

In 1991, he started to carry out anti-American policies and to pursue an Islamist agenda in Iraq. He bloodily suppressed the rebellions of Shiites and Kurds who were dissatisfied with his government.

4.1.3 Aftermath of the First Gulf War

After the Gulf War, the United States and its allies were trying to keep Saddam Hussein in check with various policies. These policies ranged from economic sanctions to pressure and research to protect minorities, mostly Shiites and Kurds, in the country. Also, there were multiple inspections of the mass destruction weapons in Iraq, which were carried out by UNSCOM (United Nations Special Commission) and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

In 1998, the United States passed a law named the 'Iraq Liberation Act'. This law declares that it should be the policy of the United States to seek to remove the Saddam Hussein regime from power in Iraq and replace it with a democratic government. It was signed into law by President Bill Clinton. After this liberation act, President Bill Clinton ordered 'Operation Desert Fox'. Iraqi militaries were bombed for three continuous days, from 16 December to 19 December 1998, which was a shocking move that dealt a blow to the army. According to Bill Clinton, the purpose of the bombing was to disable military and security targets that would allow Iraq to produce and maintain weapons of mass destruction. However, debates about whether these weapons of mass destruction exist or not continue today.

"There was no new or credible intelligence or assessment which suggested that Iraq had restarted WMD programs and that they posed an imminent threat," says the former officer, speaking of the period of early 2002. "I think from the government's point of view it was the only thing they could find.... WMD was the only peg they could hang the legality on."

During the operation, the president came under great criticism from both his people and the Islamic world. After the operation, some countries such as the People's Republic of China and France even took steps to lift the embargo against Iraq. However, he and his team still saw this operation as a success and proceeded to continue with their actions. President Clinton appeared on television on the evening of December 19 and declared "victory." The President restated the operation's main goals, and concluded "It will take some time to make a detailed assessment of our operation, but based on the briefing I've just received, I am confident we have achieved our mission." Notably, he repeated his belief that only a new

regime in Baghdad could bring a lasting resolution to the threat Iraq posed to the Persian Gulf region and the world.

4.2. 9/11 Attack

The September 11 Al-Qaeda attacks in 2001 fundamentally changed US foreign policy. Attacks carried out by Al-Qaeda have shifted the focus of American national security to combating global terrorism and preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The US administration argued that Saddam Hussein had significant contributions to the September 9 attacks and was funding Al Qaeda, even though there were no connections found. They believed that the existence of Saddam Hussein's regime posed a serious obstacle to America's ability to end terrorism around the world.

In November 2002, the US government pushed for a new inspection to find weapons of mass destruction. The council could not find any evidence of the existence of weapons of mass destruction, but America and Britain claimed that their domestic agents had witnessed first-hand the existence of weapons of mass destruction. However, since Iraq did not comply with the rules they were subject to during the Gulf War, rules that contained strict judgments about the council's ability to conduct research in the country without restrictions, it did not matter whether weapons were found or not. Today it is suggested that the Bush administration was planning to invade the country, whether they found evidence or not, but still, Iraq's defiance of the rules worked to their advantage.

Colin Powell made a speech advocating the invasion of Iraq at the United Nations Security Council on November 5, while inspections were continuing and there was still no evidence of weapons of mass destruction. His speech was very similar to the statements made by the Bush administration until that day: according to the information they received from the inside, there were WMDs in Iraq and this posed a danger to the whole world.

Powell's speech got a great reaction around the world. In March 2003, anti-war activists were protesting around the world and the council was continuing its investigations domestically. Meanwhile, the Bush administration had been trying to form the Coalition of Willing.

5. Timeline

5.1. Coalition of Willing

Coalition of Willing is a community of 48 countries that America started to form in late 2002, They find Saddam Hussein's regime harmful and will, in response, make financial contributions to the occupation operation invade Iraq, and build a new regime. The coalition was led by the United States of America Afghanistan, Albania, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and Uzbekistan.

The Dominican Republic, Honduras, Kuwait, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Mongolia, Palau, Portugal, Rwanda, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Uganda, and Panama were added to the list the next day.

Even though the list included 48 countries, *only four* countries contributed troops to the invasion force, which were the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Poland.

5.2. The Second Gulf War

5.2.1. 2003

Operation Iraqi Freedom began on March 19, 2003, with the surprise bombing of Baghdad by the United States. The first bombs hit the presidential palace and Iraqi military bases.

President Bush, according to him and Tommy Franks, the general who led the invasion, the invasion had eight purposes. Some of them were:

1. Taking out Saddam Hussein,
2. Finding and getting rid of weapons of mass destruction,
3. Getting humanitarian support for the Iraqi people,
4. Securing Iraq's oil fields.

Only two days later, on March 21, American and British troops entered the country from the south. There was a huge American - Coalition of Willing army that entered the country, which was mostly American. They met with little to no resistance when they first entered the country. The counterattacks were weak and disorganized, and because of that at the beginning of the war when they were faced with counterattacks, they preferred to skip over the area. They encountered a minor attack at Basra, but made their way upwards, using the Tigris and Euphrates river lines to move forward. The area was more dangerous for the troops, there were more and more organized groups opposing them, but they were still trying to reach Baghdad without wasting any more time and keep going with a minimum number of battles.

On the 4th of April, US and UK troops took over the Baghdad International Airport. The Iraqi Army tried to defend the city from the occupation forces but since the military bases were one of the first places that airstrikes had bombed, there were not sufficient numbers of soldiers nor equipment like guns, and bullets. Despite that, they were also disorganized. Nevertheless, the coalition forces quickly overwhelmed the Iraqi Army and the Battle of Baghdad resulted in the defeat of the Iraqi forces. By the 9th of April, the American soldiers took over the city.

Meanwhile, Kurdish people living in the northern part of the country showed their support for American troops and helped them take over the northern cities of Iraq. Kirkuk and Mosul were taken over by April 11 and Tirkut was taken over by April 13th. By the end of the month, the American forces had taken over the whole country, except for a few little regions. According to reports, so many people were killed during the war.

On May 1, 2003, President Bush made his mission accomplished speech. In his speech, he said that the coalition forces had found evidence of WMD and that the forces would stay in the country to secure the whole world. He stated that Iraq was now a free country and even though they accomplished victory they still have a lot to do to strengthen democracy.

The coalition of the willing was trying to bring a new government to the head of the country. The Office for Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance was established by the U.S. government on January 20, 2003, two months before the 2003 invasion of Iraq. It was intended to act as a caretaker administration in Iraq until a democratically elected civilian government was formed. General Jay Garner and three deputies were appointed Directors of ORHA. But his term lasted only from April 21, 2003, until he was replaced less than a month later by Paul Bremer on May 11, 2003. The authority of the CPA remained in office from 21 April 2003 until its dissolution on 28 June 2004.

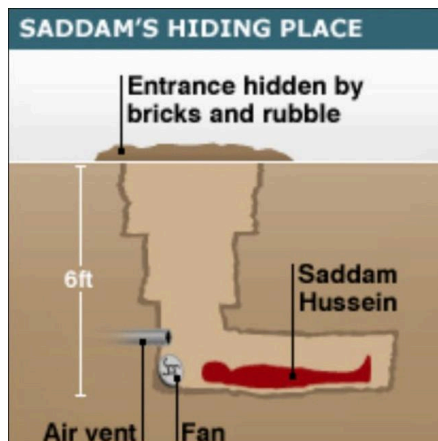
Meanwhile, on the same day, the full-armed insurgents started a rebellion against the American military forces. At first, these disorganized insurgents included only Saddam Hussein's top supporters, but shortly after Islamist extremists joined them. They saw Saddam's overthrow as an opportunity to establish an Islamic government.

On May 23, 2003, L. Paul Bremer (Head of the coalition provisional authority) decided to disband the Iraqi intelligence services and Iraqi military. In other words, he released thousands of armed and trained men into the streets. This caused the insurgents to gain power in the future.

On June 22, 2003, Saddam Hussein's two sons, Uday and Qusay, were captured and killed by the American soldiers. Even if they could not find Saddam, they had captured and killed some of his top leaders around the same time.

On August 19, 2003, a suicide bomber destroyed one of the UN headquarters and caused the deaths of twenty members of the team, one of them being Sérgio Vieira de Mello.

On December 13, 2003, Saddam Hussein was captured. He was found in a one-man fitting hole next to a farm in Tikrit, his hometown. The forces had found him according to the information they gathered from his family members and top generals. The new government has found him guilty of war crimes and crimes against human rights. He was sentenced to death.



5.2.2. 2004

On January 24, 2004, the Bush administration admitted that they had not found any evidence of WMDs (Weapons of Mass Destruction). Thousands of people from around the world were already angry because American forces did not leave the country even though the war in Iraq was 'over'. People's perspective on the war became even harder when they learned that there were no WMDs.

Before the war, there was no evidence that Iraq was connected to Al-Qaeda. According to some theories, al-Qaeda soldiers who were already in the country were organized during the war, and according to other theories, they entered the country to support Iraqis during the war. But as a consequence, on March 31, 2004, Al-Qaeda was already in Iraq and was making a show of force and power with suicide bombings and explosions in areas considered sacred for Shiite Muslims, which angered the whole Muslim World. This unfortunate incident took place in Fallujah. The public disclosure of photographic evidence of the mistreatment of prisoners in the US-run Abu Ghraib prison drew great reactions from both the Islamic World, Iraqis, and the whole world. This led to a flood of Islamist militants into Baghdad.

On May 11, 2004, US businessman Nicholas Berg is kidnapped and they videotape his beheading, referencing Abu Ghraib. They publish this video on a jihadist website. The US government later claimed that Berg was killed by Al-Qaeda founder Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

Second Battle for Fallujah

On November 7, 2004, The Second Battle of Fallujah happened. This battle was an attempt to capture the perpetrators of the Fallujah incident that took place on March 31.

When Saddam Hussein was in power, the city developed with his contributions, but the people in the city did not like him because most of the city was Shiite. Fallujah city was one of the most religious cities in Iraq. After the war started, the control of the city was held by Taha Bidaywi Hamed, one of the supporters of America, which resulted in America not sending many soldiers to the city. Although the city was subject to occasional air strikes, the opposition in the city did not take action until U.S. Marshals sabotaged the elections on April 23, 2003. On April 28, 2003, several rioters staged a riot outside a school. Armed rebels

opened fire on American forces, according to some sources for about 3 minutes, according to others for 1 hour, and the first battle of Fallujah began. The First Battle of Fallujah continued for a long time between American forces and rebels. Just 7 months after the First Battle of Fallujah, the second one started. The battle was a joint military effort of the United States and the Iraqi Interim government and was the first major offensive against the Iraqi insurgency alone and not against the military forces of Ba'athist Iraq. It was an attempt to capture or kill insurgent elements involved in the 2004 Fallujah ambush that killed four employees of the private military contractor Blackwater.

American forces entered the city simultaneously from the south and north on the night of November 7. They knew the city beforehand with the information provided by Navy SEALs and Marine Recon Snipers. US Army and the U.S. Marine Corps Scout Platoons, captured Fallujah General Hospital, Blackwater Bridge, ING building, and villages opposite the Euphrates River along Fallujah's western edge. Marines fired 81mm mortars in an operation in south Fallujah. The same unit then moved to the western approaches to the city and secured the Jurf Kas Sukr Bridge. However, these attacks were scattered attacks aimed at distracting the rebels and preparing the environment for the main attack.

Army Civil Affairs soldiers interrupted and disabled electrical power at two substations located just northeast and northwest of the city; two teams launched an attack along the northern edge of the city. Another group was tasked with infiltrating the city and destroying any fleeing enemy forces. Although most of the fighting occurred before 13 November 2004, rebel counterattacks continued until 19 November. Sporadic fighting continued until 23 December 2004. By late January 2005, reports indicated the U.S. Combat units were leaving the area and the local population was now returning to a heavily damaged city.

According to reports, by the end of the war, there were 95 American soldiers killed and 560 wounded. This is described as the bloodiest war after the Vietnam War in which the U.S. Marines were involved. It is not known exactly how many people died among the rebels, but it is believed to be between 1200 and 1500. The Coalition forces also captured at least 1.500 insurgents during the battle.

5.2.3. 2005

2005 was an election year for Iraq and there was a CPA in the country. In the autumn, Shiites gained a majority in parliament after voting for a referendum on the Iraqi constitution. The new president Talabani and Prime Minister Maliki took office.

Battle Of Samarra

Troops arrived in Baghdad on Monday, a city preparing for war with fighters from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS), which has taken control of northern and western Iraq. Samarra was a buffer zone 80 miles north of Baghdad, mostly controlled by ISIS. For this reason, US officials were now focused on this city with concern. Aware of this, ISIS

started bombings in the city on February 22, 2006. “Thousands of men gathered to defend the city. Sunni mosques were set on fire or bombarded with bullets.” Estimating that a thousand Iraqis were killed in five days, McChrystal says that widespread massacres and torture took place in the following months. It was possible to stop ISIS fighters thanks to sudden counterattacks carried out with the help of the Iranian army in mid-June.

5.2.4. 2006

On April 22, 2006, the new prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki, formed a unity government with Iraqi Kurds and Sunnis. On June 8, Al Qaeda leader Zarqawi was killed in a US-led airstrike. His campaign of suicide attacks, kidnappings, and beheadings was deplored by Americans and Iraqis alike.

Saddam Hussein's trial was on the 5th of November. The summer of 2006 was very bloody due to the insurgency that increased before the trial. According to the evidence, deaths have peaked during this period. The former dictator of Iraq was accused of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide dating back to the early 1980s. The case resulted in a death sentence by hanging. In the south, Shiites flooded the streets to celebrate, and Sunni militants north of Baghdad were vowing revenge. On December 30, he was executed.

5.2.5. 2007

The awakening: U.S. forces began recruiting Sunnis, many of them former rebels, to take up arms against militants working with AQI. This has started in Anbar Province but spread to other parts of Iraq. This tactic had helped the security problem in Iraq, at least a little. The decreasing attacks of al-Qaeda and the decreasing bombings of coalition forces had led to hopes for peace in the troubled northern Iraq region. Unfortunately, all of these hopes were shattered after the suicide truck bombings in the western part of Mosul. Hundreds were killed and wounded in the deadliest strike since the beginning of the war. After this explosion, insurgents began to target Sunnis working with America.

December 16, 2007, British troops left control of Basra to Iraqi militants. Although the coalition aimed to ensure security in the city by those it left to rule, even after 1 year, the city continued to be ruled by criminal groups.

5.2.6. 2008

2008 was a year when Iraq made a lot of progress politically. A new law reverses elements of the 2003 “de-Baathification” policy and allows some to return to government. Other than that, the Iranian prime minister had visited Iraq after nearly 40 years.

On March 24, as Shiites attacked US and Iraqi security forces, violence erupted in Baghdad and the southern port city of Basra. In response, Prime Minister Maliki launched a crackdown against the Sadrists, convincing some that he was a national leader beyond sectarianism.

On September 1, 2008, Anbar, once the country's most restive province, the US military handed over security responsibilities to the Iraqis. The move is seen as a symbolic first step towards eventual US withdrawal.

On November 4, 2008, Barack Obama, campaigning on a vow to withdraw troops from Iraq, was elected the president of the United States. Three weeks later, the Iraqi parliament approved a pair of agreements between Washington and Baghdad, confirming U.S. forces aim to withdraw by 2011.

5.2.7. 2009

On February first, 2009, the withdrawal began. President Obama announced plans to withdraw combat brigades from Iraq in phases by August 2010. According to his plan, there would be 35,000–50,000 soldiers and marines to train, equip, and advise Iraqi security forces until the end of 2011.

SOFA

SOFA is an agreement, that sets the deadline for withdrawal from cities as June 30 and also sets a date for the complete withdrawal of US forces from the country by 2011.

On June 30, 2009, U.S. forces had officially left the cities. More than 150 US bases and outposts in Iraqi cities were closed before the June 30 deadline with the help of SOFA. Some exceptions for withdrawal from cities had been negotiated, especially in the troubled northern city of Mosul and certain parts of Baghdad.

5.2.8. 2010

On March 7, 2010, parliamentary elections were held under tight security measures by Iraqi forces. There have been dozens of explosions in Baghdad and other Iraqi cities, but voter turnout is over 62 percent. The elections again resulted in Maliki's victory.

On 31 August 2010, after more than seven years of war, the United States officially ended its combat mission in Iraq. In an address to the nation, Obama underscores that the United States will not abandon Iraq, roughly fifty thousand U.S. Troops remain to train and partner with Iraqi security forces. “In the end, only Iraqis can resolve their differences and police their streets,” Obama said.

On December 21, 2010, after more than nine months of political wrangling, the Iraqi parliament approved the government. US officials state that the acrimonious relationship between the parliament poses an obstacle to the withdrawal of US troops and the fight against terrorism in the country.

5.2.9. 2011

On December 18, 2011, the last U.S. soldiers left Iraq, ending a nearly nine-year military mission. Since 2003, more than one million soldiers have served in the country.

5.3. The Aftermath of the Iraq War

Twenty-one long years after Colin Powell made his infamous speech at the United Nations telling the world of the intelligence the United States had gathered indicating that Iraq was hiding weapons of mass destruction. Former President George W. Bush announced the beginning of the US military operation in Iraq and also declared its supposed end, when he proudly announced, as he stood in front of a “Mission Accomplished” banner, “Major combat operations in Iraq have ended. In the battle of Iraq, the United States and our allies have prevailed”, the country is still affected by the outcome of the war. The costs of the conflict were high: \$800 billion from the U.S. Department of the Treasury, with nearly 4,500 Americans. An estimated 200,000 Iraqis were killed in direct violence, and hundreds of thousands more were killed through indirect violence (such as lack of access to health care, food, sanitation, and water). The instability precipitated by the invasion of the country led to even more human rights abuses, many perpetuated by the Islamic State (IS) between 2014 and 2017.

There are still hundreds of thousands of people who do not have access to water, health, and education, and the country is still trying to get rid of the terrorist organizations it once absorbed.

6. Relationship with Other Countries

The war between America and Iraq deepened, especially with America’s intervention in Iraq in 2003. During this period, relations between the two countries and their connections with their allies became quite complicated. This intervention against the Saddam Hussein regime in Iraq had a great impact worldwide and shaped the policies of many countries. The reasons behind America’s intervention in Iraq constituted an important turning point in international relations.

Background of America’s Intervention in Iraq

After the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the United States began to follow a harsh policy against security threats in the Middle East. The United States saw Iraq under Saddam Hussein as a threat due to allegations that it possessed weapons of mass destruction and supported terrorist organizations. For these reasons, the decision to intervene in Iraq was made in 2003. America stated that it carried out this intervention to ensure global security, to overthrow Saddam Hussein, and to establish democracy in Iraq.

However, this intervention caused great controversy in the international arena. Many countries, especially the United Nations (UN) Security Council, did not approve the intervention in Iraq. America launched its military operations despite the UN's decision, and this drew the reaction of many countries.

Allies of America

America cooperated with several important allies before and after the intervention in Iraq. These included, in particular, the United Kingdom, Australia, Poland, and several other Western European countries.

America's strongest ally in the intervention in Iraq, the United Kingdom, under Prime Minister Tony Blair, sided with the United States. The United Kingdom believed that the overthrow of Saddam Hussein would bring freedom to the Iraqi people. However, the difficulties experienced in the aftermath of the intervention, especially the military casualties and civilian deaths, led to major debates in British domestic politics. The Blair government was heavily criticized for the legitimacy of the intervention, and this had long-lasting political consequences in Britain.

Australia also joined the war on America's side. Prime Minister John Howard stated that he believed Saddam Hussein in Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and that these weapons threatened regional security. Australia supported the intervention by joining the coalition led by the United States. However, the Australian public strongly opposed the intervention as the effects of the war in Iraq grew.

Poland participated in the war as one of America's allies. Poland sent military troops to America and also contributed to the reconstruction process in Iraq. In addition, Spain, Italy, and some other European countries also sided with America. However, over time, public opinion in these countries also began to oppose the war.

Allies of Iraq

During the Saddam Hussein period, Iraq maintained limited alliances with some countries, especially in the Arab world. However, it is a fact that Saddam's administration did not find much support in the international community. Iraq had developed trade and strategic relations with countries such as France, Russia, and China.

France: France strongly opposed the intervention in Iraq. French President Jacques Chirac believed that the intervention in Iraq was against international law and voted against the approval of America's intervention in Iraq in the UN Security Council. After the war, France sought a diplomatic solution for the reconstruction of Iraq and made efforts to maintain its influence in the region.

Russia and China: Russia was another important country that opposed the intervention in Iraq. Russia had strong economic ties with the Saddam Hussein regime and had made major investments in Iraq. Russia criticized America's unilateral intervention, arguing that it would be more appropriate to wait for a UN decision. China similarly opposed America's intervention in Iraq, expressing concern that the war would disrupt regional and global balance.

Relationships with the Middle East and Other Regional Countries

The war in Iraq also significantly changed the regional balance. Some Arab countries, such as Saudi Arabia and Jordan, viewed the overthrow of Saddam Hussein as a positive development as a result of the war. However, these countries were also concerned about the devastating effects of the war on Iraq.

Turkey had an ambivalent attitude towards America's intervention in Iraq from the beginning. America wanted to use Turkey's territory to intervene in Iraq, but Turkey, concerned about the effects of the war in the region, did not allow the operation. This situation created tensions in relations between the two countries.

Iran supported the overthrow of Saddam Hussein in the war in Iraq because Saddam had been hostile towards Iran, especially during the Iran-Iraq War. However, after Saddam was overthrown, Iran increased its influence in the region by improving its relations with the Shiite population in Iraq.

America's intervention in Iraq significantly affected relations around the world. Although America formed a strong coalition at the beginning of the war, the long duration of the war and the failure to achieve the expected results damaged relations with allied countries and led to domestic political crises, especially in countries such as England and Australia. After Saddam Hussein was overthrown, Iraq experienced more internal conflict and instability, and regional relations took a new shape. This intervention reshaped international diplomacy and security policies and changed the balance of power in the Middle East.

7. Cabinet Members

7.1. Iraq Side

Saddam Hussein (Chair)

Saddam Hussein served as the President of Iraq from 1979 to 2003, ruling with an authoritarian regime under the Ba'ath Party. He sought to establish Iraq as a regional power through its oil resources. His rule was marked by major conflicts such as the Iran-Iraq War (1980–1988) and the invasion of Kuwait (1990). The regime faced international condemnation for its human rights abuses, including the Halabja chemical attack and suppression of opposition.

Before the U.S.-led invasion in 2003, Saddam was accused of developing weapons of mass destruction, which became the primary justification for the war. After being overthrown, he was captured, tried, and executed in 2006. His political ideology was rooted in Arab nationalism and socialism, but his rule centralized power around his authority, creating a dictatorship.

23 Savage (Chair)

23 Savage is known as a soldier who was born in the harsh lands of Iraq and inspired his people with his courage, intelligence, and leadership skills. 23 Savage, whose birth name is Shéyaa Bin Abraham-Joseph, was born on October 21, 1992, in a slum in Baghdad. Savage,

who spent his childhood under the shadow of war, set his mind on becoming a soldier at an early age with the desire to protect both his family and his people. Today, he is not only a soldier but a leader and hero working for the future of Iraq.

23 Savage's childhood was affected by the political instability and conflicts in Iraq. Savage, who had to work to support his family at a young age, also placed great importance on educating himself. He tried to keep the youth in his neighborhood away from conflict and developed his leadership skills there. These difficult experiences he had in his childhood turned him into a strong and resilient individual.

When Savage turned 18, he joined the Iraqi army and went through a difficult training process. Thanks to the courage, discipline, and leadership skills he showed during training, he quickly rose in rank and was selected for the special forces. Here, he took part in particularly dangerous missions, specializing in operations conducted behind enemy lines. In one of his first operations, his courageous attempt to rescue a unit trapped in enemy territory made him known in the Iraqi army.

23 Savage was influential not only within Iraq's borders but also internationally. He attracted attention with his diplomatic skills in the peace talks where he represented Iraq. He participated in United Nations peace missions and worked to bring his country and region to a better future. His development of peace education and conflict resolution programs, especially for young people, showed that he was a visionary leader.

Ibrahim Ahmad Abd al-Sattar Muhammad

As the Chief of Staff of the Iraqi Army, Ibrahim Ahmad Abd al-Sattar Muhammad played a key role in Saddam Hussein's defense strategies during the U.S. invasion. Despite his efforts to coordinate the Iraqi military, the army disintegrated quickly under the coalition's superior firepower. After the war, he was captured by U.S. forces and detained.

Sattar was known for his loyalty to Saddam and contributed to the modernization of Iraq's armed forces. His political stance aligned closely with the Ba'ath Party's Arab nationalist and authoritarian ideology.

Muzahim Sa'ab Hassan al-Tikriti

Muzahim Sa'ab Hassan al-Tikriti served as the Commander of the Iraqi Air Force and was a close ally of Saddam Hussein. He played a key role in modernizing Iraq's air forces and organizing air defenses during the U.S. invasion. However, Iraq's air capabilities were overwhelmed by the coalition's superior technology.

Al-Tikriti was listed as a high-priority target by U.S. forces and was eventually captured. Politically, he was a staunch supporter of the Ba'athist regime and its policies.

Ra'ad Majid Rashid al-Hamdani

Ra'ad Majid Rashid al-Hamdani was a senior commander in the Republican Guard, responsible for key ground operations during the U.S. invasion. He organized some resistance efforts against coalition forces, but the swift collapse of the Republican Guard limited his impact.

Al-Hamdani was a significant figure in Iraq's military hierarchy and remained committed to Ba'athist ideology. In the post-war period, he authored accounts reflecting on military strategy and the failures of Saddam's regime.

Kamal Mustafa Abdullah Sultan

As another senior general in the Republican Guard, Kamal Mustafa Abdullah Sultan played a critical role in defending Baghdad during the U.S. invasion. However, the rapid advance of coalition forces led to the disbandment of the Republican Guard. He was captured after the war and later prosecuted for war crimes.

Abd Al-Baqi Abd Karim Al-Sadun

A high-ranking member of the Ba'ath Party, Abd Al-Baqi Abd Karim Al-Sadun contributed to shaping Saddam Hussein's ideological policies. During the U.S. invasion, he reportedly supported resistance activities. He was captured by U.S. forces and detained.

Ahmad Hashim Abd al-Isawi

Ahmad Hashim Abd al-Isawi was an Iraqi commander loyal to Saddam Hussein. He took part in organizing resistance against coalition forces during the invasion. Post-war, he was linked to insurgent activities and became a target for U.S. operations.

Abid Hamid Mahmud

Abid Hamid Mahmud, one of Saddam Hussein's closest advisors, was deeply involved in intelligence and security operations for the regime. He was among the first high-ranking officials captured by U.S. forces after the fall of Baghdad.

Abdul Baqi Abdülkerim Abdulla

A prominent political figure in Saddam Hussein's regime, Abdul Baqi Abdülkerim Abdulla was a loyalist of the Ba'ath Party. He supported resistance efforts during the invasion and was later captured by U.S. forces.

Izzat Ibrahim al-Duri

Izzat Ibrahim al-Duri was one of Saddam Hussein's top aides and played a prominent role in leading the post-war Ba'athist resistance against U.S. forces. He remained a key figure in insurgent activities and was seen as a symbolic leader of Ba'athist loyalists until he died in 2020.

Tariq Aziz

Tariq Aziz served as Saddam Hussein's Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, acting as the international face of the regime. He actively defended Iraq's stance in the lead-up to

the U.S. invasion through diplomatic efforts at the United Nations. Following the invasion, he was captured and convicted of war crimes.

Aziz, a Christian Arab, stood out as a secular and intellectual figure within Saddam's regime. Despite his significant role in the government, he was perceived as more of a diplomat than a militaristic or ideological leader.

Ken Kurdson

Ken Kurdson is a hero who was born in the harsh conditions of Iraq and chose to become a soldier at a young age to serve his country and ensure the safety of his people. Born in a small village near Baghdad on April 11, 1985, Ken came from a modest family. Growing up with conflicts and political turmoil in his childhood, Ken adopted important values such as discipline, endurance, and leadership at an early age and became a warrior of the future.

Ken Kurdson worked to help his family in his youth, while also giving importance to his education. Aware of the political and social problems in Iraq, Ken was filled with the desire to protect his people. At the age of 17, he joined the Iraqi army and began difficult military training. Thanks to the determination and perseverance he showed in a short time, he caught the attention of his superiors and was selected for the special operations unit.

Ken Kurdson was known for his superior courage and intelligence from the early years of his career. He played important roles in operations against terrorist groups in Iraq. In particular, the composure and strategic thinking he showed during the rescue of a group of hostages made his name a legend in the Iraqi army.

7.2 America Side

George W. Bush (Chair)

As the 43rd President of the United States, George W. Bush was the principal architect of the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003. The Bush administration justified the war by claiming that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and had ties to terrorist groups like al-Qaeda. Despite the lack of WMDs being found, Bush defended the invasion as a means of bringing democracy to Iraq and eliminating a brutal dictatorship.

Domestically, the Iraq War polarized opinions, with critics accusing the Bush administration of misleading the public and destabilizing the Middle East. Internationally, the invasion strained relations with allies and provoked widespread anti-American sentiment. Politically, Bush adhered to a neoconservative worldview, prioritizing preemptive military action and spreading democratic ideals.

Playgirl Carti (Chair)

Carti, whose birth name is Jordan Terrell Carter, was born on September 13, 1983, in Atlanta, Georgia. Although it is known that he was interested in music in his youth, he put this dream aside and chose to become a leader and warrior.

Carti has always attracted attention with his leadership skills and determination since his youth. Growing up in the busy city life of Atlanta, Carti developed himself by adopting a disciplined lifestyle despite the environmental difficulties. He was interested in athletics during his high school years and took part in leadership positions in team sports. This process led him to increase his physical endurance and understand the importance of teamwork.

When he turned 18, Carti decided to join the army to serve his country. While going through an intensive training process, he developed himself not only physically but also tactically and mentally. Carti, who quickly attracted attention with his sniper skills, showed great success when he participated in his first operations. His natural leadership skills and ability to make quick decisions put him in a different position in the eyes of his superiors.

Carti is known for his strategic intelligence and ability to make the right decisions while remaining calm in complex situations. His interest in modern military technologies has led him to specialize in drones and cyber warfare. While being an effective soldier on the battlefield, he has also worked to integrate technological innovations into the army.

Ricardo Sanchez

Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez served as the top commander of U.S. forces in Iraq from 2003 to 2004, overseeing the initial occupation phase. During his tenure, the Abu Ghraib prison scandal emerged, tarnishing the U.S.'s image and raising questions about his leadership. Despite this, Sanchez worked to stabilize the volatile post-invasion environment and combat emerging insurgent groups.

Sanchez later criticized the Bush administration for lacking a coherent strategy for post-war Iraq, describing the war as a failure of political and military leadership.

Raymond T. Odierno

General Raymond T. Odierno played a key role in counterinsurgency operations during the Iraq War. He commanded the 4th Infantry Division, which was instrumental in capturing Saddam Hussein in December 2003. Odierno later served as the top commander of U.S. forces in Iraq, overseeing the "surge" strategy in 2007, which significantly reduced violence in the country.

Known for his pragmatic approach, Odierno emphasized the importance of building relationships with local Iraqi leaders to achieve stability. His leadership was pivotal in turning the tide against insurgent forces.

Lloyd Austin

General Lloyd Austin, who later became the U.S. Secretary of Defense, served as the commander of U.S. forces in Iraq from 2010 to 2011. He oversaw the drawdown of American

troops and the transition of security responsibilities to Iraqi forces. Austin's leadership marked the end of major U.S. combat operations in Iraq, though he remained concerned about the fragility of Iraq's security infrastructure.

Austin focused on maintaining stability during the withdrawal and highlighted the need for continued U.S. engagement to prevent the resurgence of extremist groups.

George William Casey Jr.

General George Casey was the senior commander of U.S. forces in Iraq from 2004 to 2007, during a particularly volatile period. He faced challenges from escalating sectarian violence and the growing insurgency. Casey initially emphasized a strategy of transferring security responsibilities to Iraqi forces, but the worsening violence prompted a shift toward the 2007 surge strategy.

Critics argued that Casey underestimated the scale of the insurgency, while supporters noted his efforts to adapt to the complex dynamics of post-invasion Iraq.

Colin Powell

As the U.S. Secretary of State under President Bush, Colin Powell played a critical role in advocating for the Iraq invasion on the international stage. His 2003 speech to the United Nations, presenting evidence of Iraq's alleged WMDs, was a turning point in justifying the war. However, the intelligence later proved to be flawed, damaging Powell's reputation.

Powell was a seasoned diplomat and military leader who favored multilateral approaches. Privately, he expressed reservations about the invasion but remained loyal to the administration's agenda. He later described the Iraq War as a "blot" on his record.

Tommy Franks

General Tommy Franks was the commander of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) and oversaw the planning and execution of the invasion of Iraq. He led the coalition forces during the initial military campaign, which resulted in the swift overthrow of Saddam Hussein's regime.

Franks's leadership was praised for its efficiency during the invasion, but he faced criticism for inadequate planning for post-war stabilization. After retiring, Franks defended the war as necessary but acknowledged the challenges of nation-building in Iraq.

Jay Garner

Jay Garner was appointed as the first director of the Office for Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance in post-invasion Iraq. His tenure was short-lived, as he was replaced by Paul Bremer after disagreements over the pace and scope of reconstruction efforts. Garner

advocated for quickly restoring Iraqi self-governance, but his approach clashed with the Bush administration's policies.

Paul Bremer

Paul Bremer served as the head of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) in Iraq from 2003 to 2004. His controversial decisions, including the disbandment of the Iraqi military and the de-Baathification policy, are often blamed for fueling the insurgency and creating widespread instability.

Bremer defended his actions as necessary for Iraq's transition to democracy but faced criticism for undermining Iraq's institutional structure. His leadership remains one of the most debated aspects of the post-invasion period.

Tony Milton

Educated at King Edward VI Grammar School in Chelmsford, Milton joined the Royal Marines in 1967 and subsequently became an equerry to the Duke of Edinburgh. He became Commanding Officer of 40 Commando in 1992, in which role he was deployed to Northern Ireland and was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire. He was appointed commander of 3 Commando Brigade in 1995 and, in 1999, Director General for Joint Doctrine and Concepts, a post established following the Strategic Defence Review. He went on to be Commandant-General Royal Marines in May 2002 and took over as British Maritime Commander for Operation Telic – the invasion of Iraq – in April 2003.

8. Resources and Further Readings

- <https://www.congress.gov/bill/105th-congress/house-bill/4655#:~:text=Iraq%20Liberation%20Act%20of%201998%20%2D%20Declares%20that%20it%20should%20be.it%20with%20a%20democratic%20government.>
- <https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/Portals/10/ASPJ/journals/Chronicles/conversino.pdf>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-64914542>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Battle_of_Fallujah#Battle
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saddam_Hussein
- <https://www.cfr.org/timeline/iraq-war>
- https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FwAc9UnIQ_yH8uoox3IWPDxz7pwsBKIvHPxRBrN_Ffg/edit?tab=t.bgu7x58d5wqf
- <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/iraq/map/>

