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IRAQ

A Map Folio

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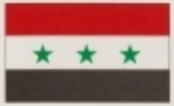


Chief of State
President Saddam Husayn
also Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council and the Regional Command of the Ba'th Party

United Nations Ambassador
Nizar Hamdun

Land area
435,292 km² (est.)
(168,023 miles²)
slightly larger than California

Coastline
58 km (36 miles)

Total population
18,445,847 (1992 est.)
(comparable to the State of New York)

Largest cities

Baghdad 4,649,000	*As Sulaymānīyah 279,424*
Al Basrah 616,700	*An Najaf 242,603*
Mosul 570,926	*Al Hillah 275,249*
Irbil 333,903	*Karkūk 207,852*

International airports
Baghdad, Al Basrah

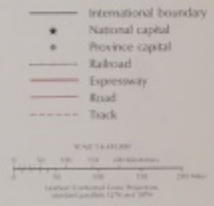
Language
Arabic (spoken by 81%),
Kurdish, Assyrian, Armenian

Ethnic divisions
Arab 75–80%
Kurd 15–20%
Turkoman, Assyrian, or other 5%

Religion
Islamic Shia 60–65%
Islamic Sunni 32–37%
Christian or other 3%

Literacy
60% (1990 est.)

Time
+3 hours Coordinated Universal Time
+8 hours Eastern Standard Time



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East-Central Iraq

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Baghdad and Vicinity

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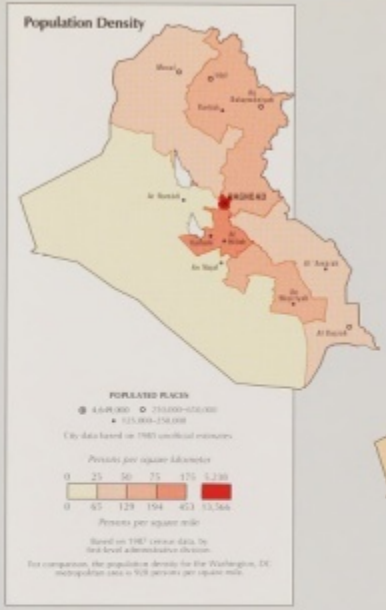

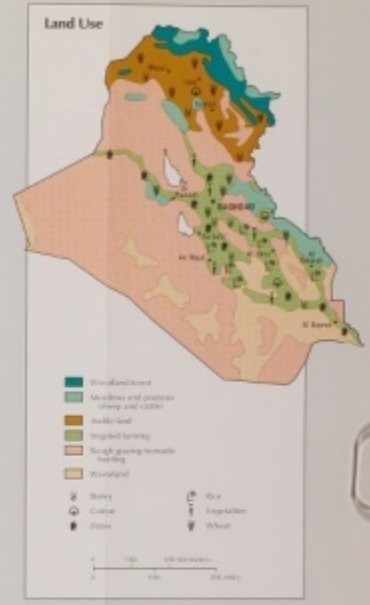

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Oilfields and Facilities

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Ethnoreligious Groups

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Dissident Areas

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Iraq

Geography

Total area: 436,245 km²; land area: 435,292 km² (est.)
Comparative area: slightly more than twice the size of Idaho
Land boundaries: 3,576 km total; Iran 1,458 km, Jordan 134 km, Kuwait 240 km, Saudi Arabia 808 km, Syria 605 km, Turkey 331 km
Coastline: 58 km
Maritime claims:
Continental shelf: not specific;
Territorial sea: 12 nm
Disputes: Iran and Iraq restored diplomatic relations in 1990 but are still trying to work out written agreements settling outstanding disputes from their eight-year war concerning border demarcation, prisoners-of-war, and freedom of navigation and sovereignty over the Shatt-al-Arab, waterway; in April 1991 official Iraqi acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 687, which demands that Iraq accept the inviolability of the boundary set forth in its 1963 agreement with Kuwait, ending earlier claims to Bubiyan and Warbah Islands or to all of Kuwait; a United Nations Boundary Demarcation Commission is demarcating the Iraq-Kuwait boundary persuant to Resolution 687, and, on 17 June 1992, the UN Security Council reaffirmed the finality of the Boundary Demarcation Commission's decisions; periodic disputes with upstream riparian Syria over Euphrates water rights; potential dispute over water development plans by Turkey for the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers
Climate: mostly desert; mild to cool winters with dry, hot, cloudless summers; northernmost regions along Iranian and Turkish borders experience cold winters with occasionally heavy snows
Terrain: mostly broad plains; reedy marshes in southeast; mountains along borders with Iran and Turkey
Natural resources: crude oil, natural gas, phosphates, sulfur
Land use: arable land 12%; permanent crops 1%; meadows and pastures 9%; forest and woodland 3%; other 75%; includes irrigated 4%
Environment: development of Tigris-Euphrates Rivers system contingent upon agreements with upstream riparians (Syria, Turkey); air and water pollution; soil degradation (salinization) and erosion; desertification

People

Population: 18,445,847 (July 1992), growth rate 3.7% (1992)
Birth rate: 45 births/1,000 population (1992)
Death rate: 9 deaths/1,000 population (1992)
Net migration rate: NEGL migrants/1,000 population (1992)
Infant mortality rate: 84 deaths/1,000 live births (1992)
Life expectancy at birth: 62 years male, 64 years female (1992)
Total fertility rate: 7.0 children born/woman (1992)
Nationality: noun—Iraqi(s); adjective—Iraqi
Ethnic divisions: Arab 75-80%, Kurdish 15-20%, Turkoman, Assyrian or other 5%
Religion: Muslim 97%, (Shi'a 60-65%, Sunni 32-37%), Christian or other 3%
Language: Arabic (official), Kurdish (official in Kurdish regions), Assyrian, Armenian
Literacy: 60% (male 70%, female 49%) age 15 and over can read and write (1990 est.)
Labor force: 4,400,000 (1989); services 48%, agriculture 30%, industry 22%, severe labor shortage; expatriate labor force about 1,600,000 (July 1990)
Organized labor: less than 10% of the labor force

Government

Long-form name: Republic of Iraq
Type: republic
Capital: Baghdād
Administrative divisions: 18 provinces (muḥāfaẓat, singular —muḥāfaẓah); Al Anbār, Al Başrah, Al Muthannā, Al Qādisīyah, An Najaf, Arbīl, As Sulaymānīyah, At Ta'īm, Bābil, Baghdād, Dahūk, Dhī Qār, Diyālá, Karbalā, Maysān, Nīnawá, Şalaḥ ad Dīn, Wāsiṭ
Independence: 3 October 1932 (from League of Nations mandate under British administration)
Constitution: 22 September 1968, effective 16 July 1970 (interim Constitution); new constitution drafted in 1990 but not adopted
Legal system: based on Islamic law in special religious courts, civil law system elsewhere; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction
National holiday: Anniversary of the Revolution, 17 July (1968)
Executive branch: president, vice president, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, vice chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, prime minister, first deputy prime minister, Council of Ministers
Legislative branch: unicameral National Assembly (Majlis al-Watani)
Judicial branch: Court of Cassation
Leaders:
Chief of State—President SADDAM Husayn (since 16 July 1979); Vice President Taha Muhyi al-Din MA'RUF (since 21 April 1974); Vice President Taha Yasin RAMADAN (since 23 March 1991);
Head of Government—Prime Minister Muhammad Hamza al-ZUBAYDI (since 13 September 1991); Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'AZIZ (since NA 1979)
Political parties: all political power and influence are held by the Ba'th Party; in the north, the Kurdistan Front, made up of the Kurdish Democratic Party, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, and others, sponsored an election for a Kurdish assembly and "supreme leader" on 19 May 1992
Suffrage: universal adult at age 18
Elections:
National Assembly—last held on 1 April 1989 (next to be held NA); results—Sunni Arabs 53%, Shi'a Arabs 30%, Kurds 15%, Christians 2% est.; seats—(250 total) number of seats by party NA
Other political or pressure groups: political parties and activity severely restricted; possibly some opposition to regime from disaffected members of the regime, Army officers, and Shi'a religious and Kurdish ethnic dissidents
Member of: ABEDA, ACC, AFESD, AL, AMF, CAEU, CCC, ESCWA, FAO, G-19, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INMARSAT, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ISO, ITU, LORCS, NAM, OAPEC, OIC, OPEC, PCA, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO
Diplomatic representation: Iraq has an Interest Section in the Algerian Embassy in Washington, DC; Chancery at 1801 P Street NW, Washington, DC 20036; telephone (202) 483-7500;
US—no US representative in Baghdad since mid-January 1991; Embassy in Masbah Quarter (opposite the Foreign Ministry Club), Baghdad (mailing address is P. O. Box 2447 Alwiyah, Baghdad); telephone [964] (1) 719-6138 or 719-6139, 718-1840, 719-3791

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Iraq *(continued)*

Flag: three equal horizontal bands of red (top), white, and black with three green five-pointed stars in a horizontal line centered in the white band; the phrase Allahu Akbar (God is Great) in green Arabic script—Allahu to the right of the middle star and Akbar to the left of the middle star—was added in January 1991 during the Persian Gulf crisis; similar to the flag of Syria that has two stars but no script and the flag of Yemen that has a plain white band; also similar to the flag of Egypt that has a symbolic eagle centered in the white band

Economy

Overview: The Ba'thist regime engages in extensive central planning and management of industrial production and foreign trade while leaving some small-scale industry and services and most agriculture to private enterprise. The economy has been dominated by the oil sector, which has provided about 95% of foreign exchange earnings. In the 1980s financial problems, caused by massive expenditures in the eight-year war with Iran and damage to oil export facilities by Iran, led the government to implement austerity measures and to borrow heavily and later reschedule foreign debt payments. After the end of hostilities in 1988, oil exports gradually increased with the construction of new pipelines and restoration of damaged facilities. Agricultural development remained hampered by labor shortages, salinization, and dislocations caused by previous land reform and collectivization programs. The industrial sector, although accorded high priority by the government, also was under financial constraints. Iraq's seizure of Kuwait in August 1990, subsequent international economic embargoes, and military actions by an international coalition beginning in January 1991 drastically changed the economic picture. Oil exports were cut to near zero, and industrial and transportation facilities were severely damaged. Throughout 1991, the UN's economic embargo worked to reduce exports and imports and to increase prices for most goods. The government's policy to allocate goods to key supporters of the regime exacerbated shortages.
GNP: $35 billion, per capita $1,940; real growth rate 10% (1989 est.)
Inflation rate (consumer prices): 45% (1989)
Unemployment rate: less than 5% (1989 est.)
Budget: revenues $NA billion; expenditures $NA billion, including capital expenditures of NA (1989)
Exports: $10.4 billion (f.o.b., 1990); *commodities*—crude oil and refined products, fertilizer, sulfur; *partners*—US, Brazil, Turkey, Japan, Netherlands, Spain (1990)
Imports: $6.6 billion (c.i.f., 1990); *commodities*—manufactures, food; *partners*—FRG, US, Turkey, France, UK (1990)
External debt: $45 billion (1989 est.), excluding debt of about $35 billion owed to Arab Gulf states
Industrial production: NA%; manufacturing accounts for 10% of GNP (1989)
Electricity: 3,800,000 kW available out of 9,902,000 kw capacity due to Gulf war; 7,700 million kWh produced, 430 kWh per capita (1991)
Industries: petroleum production and refining, chemicals, textiles, construction materials, food processing
Agriculture: accounts for 11% of GNP but 30% of labor force; principal products—wheat, barley, rice, vegetables, dates, other fruit, cotton, wool; livestock—cattle, sheep; not self-sufficient in food output
Economic aid: US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-80), $3 million; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), $647 million; Communist countries (1970-89), $3.9 billion
Currency: Iraqi dinar (plural—dinars); 1 Iraqi dinar (ID) = 1,000 fils
Exchange rates: Iraqi dinars (ID) per US$1—3.1 (fixed official rate since 1982); black-market rate (December 1991) US$1 = 12 Iraqi dinars
Fiscal year: calendar year

Communications

Railroads: 2,457 km 1.435-meter standard gauge
Highways: 34,700 km total; 17,500 km paved, 5,500 km improved earth, 11,700 km unimproved earth
Inland waterways: 1,015 km; Shatt-al-Arab usually navigable by maritime traffic for about 130 km, but closed since September 1980 because of Iran-Iraq war; Tigris and Euphrates Rivers have navigable sections for shallow-draft watercraft; Shatt-al-Başrah canal was navigable by shallow-draft craft before closing in 1991 because of the Persian Gulf war
Ports: Umm Qasr, Khawr az Zubayr, Al Başrah, (closed since 1980)
Merchant marine: 42 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 936,665 GRT/1,683,212 DWT; includes 1 passenger, 1 passenger-cargo, 16 cargo, 1 refrigerated cargo, 3 roll-on/roll-off cargo, 19 petroleum tanker, 1 chemical tanker; note—since the 2 August 1990 invasion of Kuwait by Iraqi forces, Iraq has sought to register at least part of its merchant fleet under convenience flags; none of the Iraqi flag merchant fleet was trading internationally as of 1 January 1992
Pipelines: crude oil 4,350 km; petroleum products 725 km; natural gas 1,360 km
Civil air: 34 major transport aircraft (including 7 grounded in Iran; excluding 12 IL-76s and 7 Kuwait Airlines)
Airports: 113 total, 98 usable; 73 with permanent-surface runways; 8 with runways over 3,659 m; 52 with runways 2,440-3,659 m; 12 with runways 1,220-2,439 m
Telecommunications: reconstitution of damaged telecommunication infrastructure began after Desert Storm; the network consists of coaxial cables and microwave links; 632,000 telephones; the network is operational; broadcast stations—16 AM, 1 FM, 13 TV; satellite earth stations—1 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT, 1 Indian Ocean INTELSAT, 1 GORIZONT Atlantic Ocean in the Intersputnik system and 1 ARABSAT; coaxial cable and microwave to Jordan, Kuwait, Syria, and Turkey

Defense Forces

Branches: Army and Republican Guard, Navy, Air Force, Border Guard Force, Internal Security Forces
Manpower availability: males 15-49, 4,042,374; 2,272,578 fit for military service; 213,788 reach military age (18) annually
Defense expenditures: exchange rate conversion— $NA, NA% of GNP

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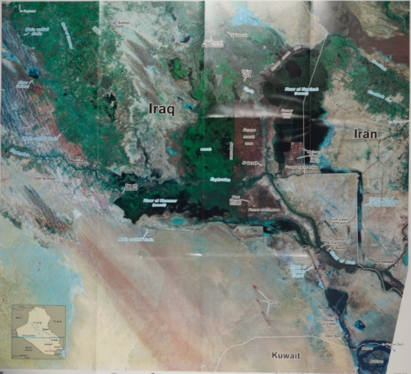
Southeastern Iraq



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The Kurdish Lands

Terrain

1

Terrain between Malatya and Sanliurfa is representative of Kurdish Turkey: high elevations are cold in the winter, hot and dry in the summer.

2

Ataturk Baraj (dam) under construction in 1986.

3

Flat terrain between Cizreand and Sanliurfa on the road to Diyarbakir, Turkey.

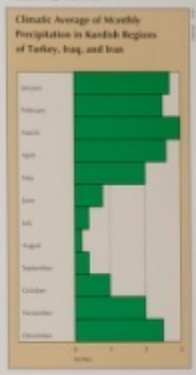
4

Scrub oak, typical of lower elevations in Kurdistan, provides edible acorns and wood for Kurdish inhabitants. Natural vegetation ranges from shortgrass and bushwood in the lower elevations and basins to scattered forests of scrub trees, conifers, and oaks in the mountains. The cutting of trees for fuel has reduced the size of forests over time.

5

Flat to undulating plains that give way to foothills and mountains, exemplify Kurdistan's terrain.

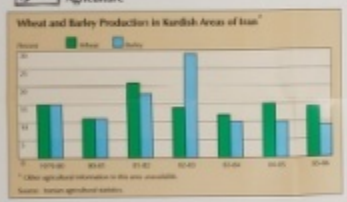
Rainfall

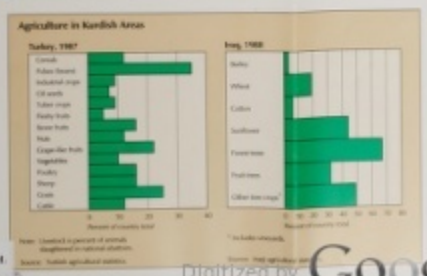


If only there were harmony among us,
If we were to obey a single one of us,
He would reduce to vassalage
Turks, Arabs, and Persians - all of them.
We would perfect our religion, our State
And would educate ourselves in learning and wisdom...

From a 17th century Kurdish poet lamenting Kurdish divisiveness and longing for a Kurdish king.

Agriculture





Scenes of Daily Life

Kurds use traditional methods to thresh wheat near Sanandaj, Iran.

Kurdish couple displays typically colorful handmade carpet. Cottage industries, such as rug-making, produce consumer items for resale by middlemen outside of the Kurdish areas.

Villages, such as this one near Bakhtaran, occupy the rural regions of Turkey and Iran; similar ones in Iraq were razed by Baghdad.

Fat-tailed sheep. These and goats provide Kurds with milk, cheese, meat, and wool.

Diesel-driven pump in southern Turkey moves water from a well to the fields. Irrigation water from the Ataturk Baraj reservoir will eventually replace this type of system typical of the region.

A mule-driven cart laden with firewood competes for a spare lane with automobiles in Sanliurfa, Turkey.

Although predominantly settled, some Kurds in remote areas still maintain a nomadic lifestyle.

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Transportation Corridors Into Iraq

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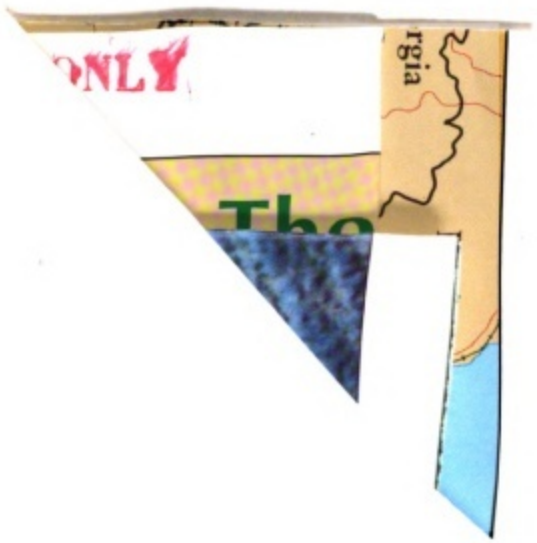

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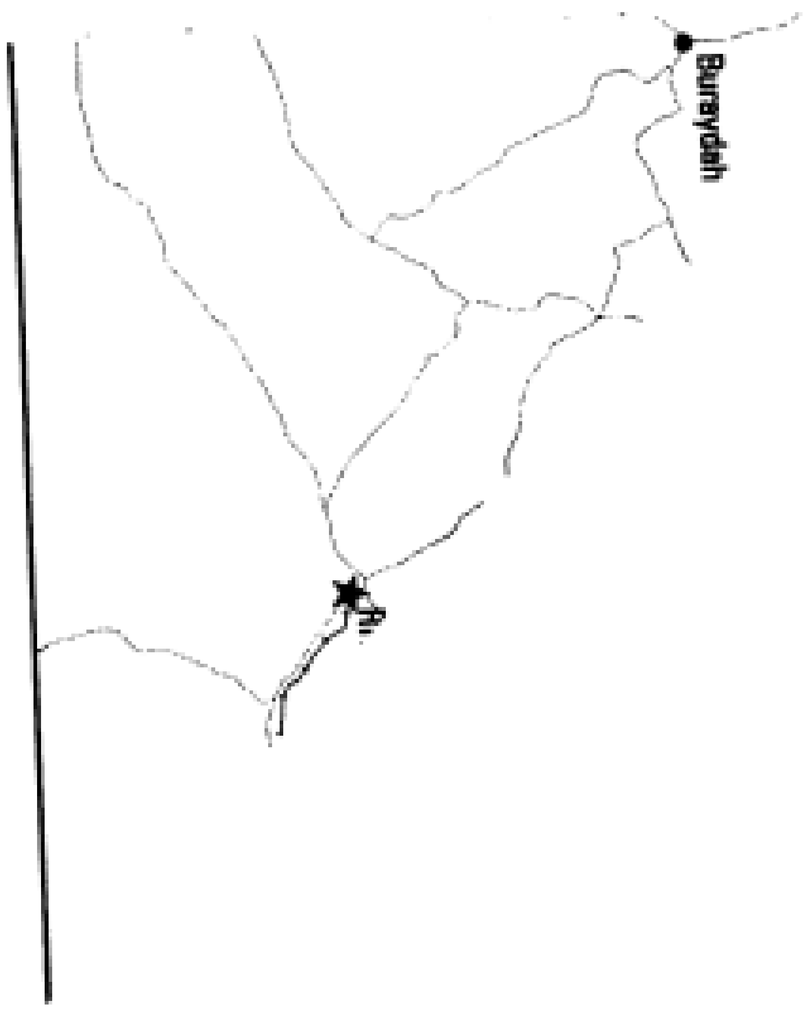
Iraq *(continued)*



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