

# POST-COLD WAR CONFLICTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

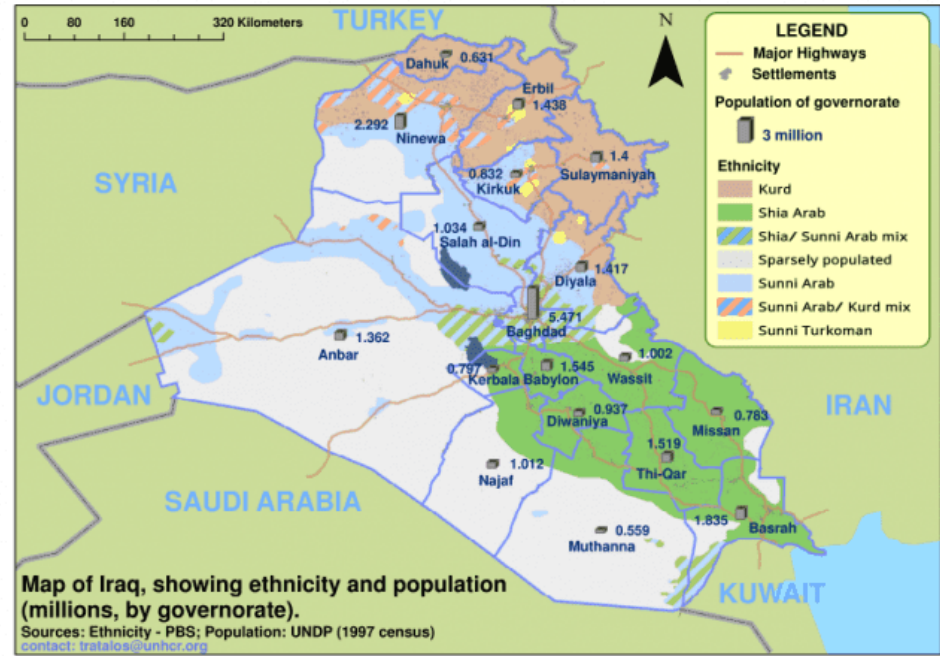


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# POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN IRAQ

- 1958 military coup led by Abd al-Karim Qasim → end of the monarchy → Iraq republic – dominance of Baath Party.
- Since 1960s Saddam Hussein was a leader of Baath Party, since 1978 president of Iraq → authoritarian regime.
- Various conflicting lines in the society:
  - Kurds – 25 % of population living especially in northern Iraq → Kurdish nationalism.
  - Sunni vs. Shia Muslims – Shia Muslims are the majority but under Saddam's regime subordination to Sunni Muslims.



# IRAQ

- Personal cult of Saddam Hussein (“new Saladin“ of the Middle East).
- Nationalization of Iraq oil industry in 1970s → various social programs, modernization of the country → Saddam’s regime quite popular among the ordinary people (except of the Kurds).
- Iran-Iraq war 1980-1988: non of the state was able to achieve unambiguous victory – significant damages for economies, societies, environment of both countries.
- The war became the excuse for the repression of the Kurds – 1987: chemical attacks on towns and villages in Kirkuk region (Al-Anfal operation, sometimes titled as





# GULF WAR 1990-1991

- Iraq was searching for new sources of income as economy of the country was heavily damaged by the war with Iran.
- Long-term disapproval of Kuwait's state sovereignty (historical reasons, oil resources, fresh clean water).
- Underestimation of the international consequences of the war by Saddam Hussein based on a conversation with US ambassador April Glaspie: „*We have no opinion on your Arab-Arab conflicts, such as your dispute with Kuwait. Secretary Baker has directed me to emphasize the instruction, first given to Iraq in the 1960s, that the Kuwait issue is not associated with America.*“
- September 2, 1990 – start of the annexation of Kuwait, the country got occupied with one



# ANTI-IRAQ INTERNATIONAL COALITION

- International coalition led by USA (George H. Bush).
- January 17, 1991: Operation Desert Storm → Iraq defeated within couple of weeks – confirmation of the superpower role of USA.
- Renewal of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Kuwait.
- Despite of the military defeat, Saddam Hussein was able to keep the position of the president of Iraq – the international coalition did not support Kurdish uprising in the northern Iraq.
- Western economic sanctions on Iraq, partial release later (program *Oil for Food*).



# GLOBAL JIHADISM

- Terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C. in September 11, 2001 → huge shock for the western world – growth of global jihadism (al-Qaeda as well as the other organizations).
- So called war against terrorism (al-Qaeda, Boko Haram, ISIS) – *Bush doctrine*.
- Started October 7, 2001 in response to terrorist attacks from September 11 (Operation Enduring Freedom).
- Death of Osama ben Laden May 2, 2011 – suspicious circumstances.
- 2021: withdrawal of western allies from Afghanistan → Taliban gets back to power.





## RONALD REAGAN MEETS WITH THE TALIBAN



“THESE GENTLEMEN ARE THE MORAL  
EQUIVALENTS OF AMERICA’S FOUNDING  
FATHERS.” – RONALD REAGAN, 1985

# WAR IN AFGHANISTAN 2001- TODAY

- Started October 7, 2001 in response to terrorist attacks from September 11 (Operation Enduring Freedom).
- USA, GB vs. Taliban (nowadays the Operation Enduring Freedom is managed by NATO) → obvious military superiority of US army – Kabul got under US control in November 2001 → guerilla war.



Osama bin Laden



# AL-QAEDA ATTACKS IN EUROPE

- 2004: Madrid train bombings (190 people killed).
- 2005: London bombings (52 people killed).
- 2015: attack on Charlie Hebdo in Paris.



# WAR IN AFGHANISTAN 2001-2021

- Death of Osama ben Laden May 2, 2011 – suspicious circumstances.
- Warlords, Taliban, other radical groups.
- 2020: peace talks between Taliban and the central government in Kabul.
- 2021: withdrawal of western allies from Afghanistan → Taliban gets back to power.



# 2nd GULF WAR (WAR IN IRAQ)

- March 20, 2003: alliance of western states led by USA attacked on Iraq (not a full support of international community, no official UN mandate).
- The declared reasons:
  - Iraq possessed the weapons of massive destruction;
  - Support of al-Qaeda,
  - Protection of human rights in Iraq, democratization of the country.
- May 2003 – most of the territory occupied by the allied countries – *Operation Iraqi Freedom*.
- December 2003: Saddam Hussein captured and put to the court.





# IRAQI NATIONAL UPRISING

- Iraqi national uprising – officially ceased in December 15, 2011 but since that the fightings have been occurring constantly.
- Temporary Iraqi government → election → permanent government made in 2006 – not able to control the whole territory of the country (president Barham Salih).
- Different groups of the rebels:
  - Supporters of Saddam Hussein



Abu Musab al-Zarqawi

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION**