Annex C

IRAQ TIMELINE

Significant Events Pre–Gulf War

1534–1918  Iraq territory is part of Ottoman Empire.

1917  Great Britain captures Baghdad from Ottoman Empire during its Mesopotamian Campaign in World War I.

1920  Great Britain, with support of the League of Nations, establishes modern state of Iraq.

1932  Iraq becomes fully autonomous state and admitted into League of Nations.

1939–1945  Great Britain’s military forces reoccupy Iraq during World War II.


1963 February 9  Former Colonel Abd al-Salam Muhammad Arif becomes new head of government after former Prime Minister Abd al-Karim Qasim is overthrown and executed.

1964 July  Iraqi government nationalizes many key industries and businesses.

1966 April  President Abd al-Salam Muhammad Arif is killed in helicopter crash; his brother, Abdul-Rahman Arif, replaces him.

1968 July 17  Ba‘athists topple Abdul-Rahman Arif’s government; Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr assumes presidency.
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1970s Saddam Hussein begins to gain power and influence within the Ba’ath Party and government.

1970 March Saddam completes an agreement with Kurdish leader, Mulla Mustafa al-Barzani, which effectively recognizes Kurdish identity and guarantees Kurdish independence within next 4 years.

1972 April Saddam secures Iraq-Soviet Friendship treaty in Moscow.

1972 June Iraq’s government nationalizes oil fields of Iraq Petroleum Company.

1974 Iraq’s government grants limited autonomy to Iraq’s Kurdish region.

1979 Saddam forces President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr to resign.

1980–1988 Iran-Iraq War spans 8 years. Iraq claims victory, but there is no clear winner.

1988 March Iraq’s military attacks Kurdish town of Halabjah with poison gas, killing thousands of civilians.

1990 August 2 Iraq invades Kuwait, prompting United Nations (UN) to impose economic sanctions in response to act of aggression.


1990 August 6 UN Security Council passes Resolution 661 that places economic sanctions on Iraq. Resolution 665, passed soon after, authorizes embargo to enforce sanctions.


1991 February 28  Iraqi forces withdraw from Kuwait and Iraqi government accepts all UN resolutions passed resulting from invasion of Kuwait.


1991 April 3  UN Resolution 687 passes, which set framework for ceasefire and created UN Compensation Fund.

1991 April 6  Ceasefire terms are agreed upon between Iraq and allied forces.

1991 April 7  Operation *Provide Comfort* begins to protect and assist Kurds in northern Iraq.

1991 June 9  First chemical weapons inspection in Iraq conducted by UN Special Commission on Iraq.

1992 August  A no-fly zone banning flights from Iraqi planes is implemented in southern Iraq.

1993 April  Saddam's agents fail in attempt to assassinate former President George H.W. Bush in Kuwait.

1993 June  U.S. Government conducts military strike on Iraqi Intelligence Service's headquarters in response to assassination attempt on President Bush.

1995 April  Iraq's oil exports moderately resume in “oil-for-food program” under UN Security Council Resolution 986.

1995 October  Saddam succeeds in winning referendum, which grants him power to remain president.
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1996 The United States expands southern no-fly zone, just south of Baghdad.

1997 January 1 Operation Northern Watch implemented.

1998 October Iraq refuses to further cooperate with UN Special Commission to Oversee the Destruction of Iraq’s Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).

1998 December U.S. and British military planes launch bombing campaign, Operation Desert Fox, intended to destroy and dismantle Iraq’s WMD programs.

1999 February A senior Shiite spiritual leader, Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Sadiq al-Sadr, killed in Najaf.

1999 December UN Security Council Resolution 1284 orders establishment of UN Monitoring, Verification, and Inspection Commission, which replaces UN Special Commission. Iraq does not accept resolution.

2001 February U.S. and British warplanes conduct bombing campaigns in attempt to immobilize Iraq’s air defense.

2001 September 11 Al Qaeda terrorists attack World Trade Center in New York and Pentagon with passenger airplanes, killing approximately 3,000 people. Another hijacked plane, intended to strike the White House, is brought down in rural Pennsylvania after brave actions by passengers.

2002–2003

2002 September 12 At UN General Assembly meeting, President George W. Bush asks world leaders to confront the “grave and gathering danger” of Iraq. British Prime Minister Tony Blair also releases report on Iraq’s military capability.

2002 October Congress, by wide majority, authorizes use of military force in Iraq.
Iraq Timeline

2002 November 8  UN Security Council unanimously passes Resolution 1441. Iraq later agrees to weapons inspections, and UN weapons inspectors return.

2003 February 5  Secretary of State Colin Powell delivers presentation before UN Security Council, arguing that Iraq has WMD and advanced weapons programs.

2003 March 18  Diplomatic process ends and arms inspectors leave Iraq. President Bush gives Saddam and his sons 48 hours to leave.

2003 March 19  Allied forces bomb military targets and attempt to kill Saddam.


2003 April 9  Saddam's rule is toppled and Baghdad comes under direct U.S. control.

2003 May 1  President Bush declares end of combat phase in Iraq on aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, under banner that reads “Mission Accomplished.”

2003 May 23  Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) announces that all public-sector employees affiliated with Ba'ath Party are to be removed from their positions.

2003 July 22  Saddam's sons, Uday and Qusay, are killed in Mosul in gun battle with Soldiers from 101st Airborne Division.

2003 August  Prominent Shiite leader Ayatollah Mohammed Baqr al-Hakim is killed by car bomb in Najaf. One hundred twenty-four people also killed.

2003 August 7  Car bomb at Jordanian embassy kills 18 people.

2003 August 19  Suicide bomber targets UN headquarters in Baghdad, killing 22 people and wounding at least 100. The UN Special Representative in Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello, is killed.
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2003 December 14 Saddam, on the run for nearly 9 months, is captured by U.S. troops.

Insurgency

2004 January Central Intelligence Agency former chief weapons inspector David Kay testifies at public congressional hearings that U.S. intelligence agencies failed to detect disarray and decline of Iraqi WMD program.

2004 March During Shiite religious festival, suicide bombers kill 140 people in Baghdad and Karbala.

2004 March 31 Four private security contractors killed in Fallujah.

2004 April 28 Photos emerge that show American Soldiers forcing Iraqi prisoners into abusive and sexually humiliating positions at Abu Ghraib prison.

2004 April–May Mahdi army and other Shiite militias loyal to cleric Muqtada al-Sadr engage coalition forces.

2004 June 28 CPA hands over its ruling power to interim government headed by Prime Minister Ayad Allawi.

2004 August U.S. forces and insurgents loyal to Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr fight in Najaf.

2004 November U.S. forces lead offensive against pro-Saddam insurgents in Fallujah. A previous offensive in April 2004 was stopped for political reasons.

2005 January 30 Approximately 8 million Iraqis vote in elections for Iraq’s newly formed National Assembly.

2005 April Iraqi parliament selects Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani as president. A Shiite, Ibrahim Jaafari, is selected as prime minister.

2005 May Civilian deaths from bombings and shooting related incidents rise to 672, up from 364 in April.
### Iraq Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005 June</td>
<td>Massoud Barzani is selected as the president of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG).</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005 August</td>
<td>The draft version of the new constitution is accepted by Shiite and Kurdish negotiators. Sunni representatives refuse.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005 October</td>
<td>Iraqi citizens vote for new constitution that will create Islamic federal democracy. The new constitution is approved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 December</td>
<td>First government and parliamentary elections take place since allied invasion.</td>
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### Civil Unrest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006 January-</td>
<td>UN estimates that more than 34,000 civilians killed in violence in 2006, more than three times official Iraqi death toll estimates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2006 February</td>
<td>Al-Askari Mosque in Samarra, one of the most important Shiite mosques in the world, is bombed. That event unleashes a wave of civil unrest and violence throughout the country.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006 April</td>
<td>President Talabani forms new government with Shiite compromise candidate Nouri al-Maliki to end political stalemate. Maliki becomes prime minister.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006 May and</td>
<td>UN reports that more than 100 civilians are killed each day.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2006 November</td>
<td>Iraq and Syria reestablish full diplomatic relations. Car bombings in the Shiite neighborhood of Sadr City in Baghdad result in one of the deadliest attacks in Baghdad since 2003.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006 November</td>
<td>Saddam is sentenced to death by hanging.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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2006 December 30  Saddam is executed.

2007–2008

2007 January 10  President Bush announces the Surge strategy in Iraq. He orders over 20,000 Army and Marine forces to Baghdad, its suburbs, and Anbar Province. Iraqi forces and U.S. Government civilians also surge. Together with the Sunni Awakening, the Surge markedly reduces insurgent and sectarian violence in Iraq.

2007 February  Over 100 people killed in bombing attack in Baghdad’s Sadriya Market.

2007 August  Political alliance formed supporting Prime Minister Maliki’s government between Kurdish and Shiite parties. Sunni parties refuse to join.


2007 December 16  Great Britain transfers responsibility for Basra Province to Iraqi forces.

2008 January 13  Iraq’s parliament passes legislation permitting some former Ba’ath party officials to work in public sector.

2008 March 2  President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad becomes first Iranian president to visit Iraq since Iraq-Iran War.

2008 March 24  Prime Minister Maliki orders Iraqi forces to disarm al-Sadr’s Mahdi army in Basra, resulting in several hundred causalities.

2008 September 1  U.S. military forces transfer responsibility of Anbar Province to Iraqi forces. This is the first Sunni province returned to central government.

2008 November  Iraq’s parliament approves security agreement with the United States, which states all U.S. troops are scheduled to leave Iraq by end of 2011.
2009–2011

2009 January  
Iraq’s security forces assume responsibility for security in Baghdad’s Green Zone.

2009 February 27  
President Barack Obama starts gradual withdrawal of U.S. forces. Approximately 50,000 troops to remain in Iraq until 2011.

2009 June 30  
U.S. forces withdraw from Iraqi towns and cities and transfer security duties to Iraqi troops.

2009 July  
Massoud Barzani is reelected president.

2009 December  
Islamic State of Iraq claims responsibility for suicide bombings in Baghdad and attacks in August and October that kill nearly 400 people.

2010 January  
A former senior official in the Saddam government, “Chemical” Ali Hassan al-Majid, is executed.

2010 March 7  
Parliamentary elections take place.

2010 August 31  
Last U.S. combat brigade leaves Iraq.

2010 September  
A year after relations soured between Syria and Iraq, the countries restore full diplomatic relations.

2010 November–December  
Talabani is reappointed president and Prime Minister Maliki retains his position.

2011 January  
Al-Sadr returns to Iraq.

2011 February  
Kurdistan’s oil exports recommence after disagreement between KRG and central government over contracts with foreign firms and allocation of oil revenues.

2011 December 18  
U.S. military forces complete withdrawal.
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Post-U.S. Withdrawal

2012 March Arab League holds first major summit in Iraq since fall of Saddam's government.

2012 April KRG oil exports stop due to continued disagreement with central government oil contracts.

2012 September Former Iraqi Vice President Tariq al-Hashemi is sentenced to death. He pursued safe haven in Turkey.

2012 November Iraq's arms deal with Russia is canceled after allegations of corruption within Iraqi government.

2012 December President Talabani suffers stroke and is treated in Germany. Sunnis take part in mass demonstrations throughout Iraq, protesting central government's marginalization of the Sunni minority.

2013 April Iraqi troops attack a Sunni antigovernment protest camp in Hawija, resulting in over 50 casualties and sparking riots in surrounding areas.

2013 July Hundreds of al Qaeda members, including senior leaders, escape from jails in Taiji and Abu Ghraib.

2013 September KRG parliamentary elections take place. Kurdistan Democratic Party wins the elections. Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) claims responsibility for series of bombings that hit Erbil, the capital of Kurdistan.

2014 January Pro-al Qaeda fighters take control of Fallujah and Ramadi after months of fighting in Anbar Province. Iraqi forces are able to retake Ramadi.

2014 April The Islamic Dawa Party, led by Prime Minister Maliki, wins a plurality at parliamentary election, but is unable to win a majority.

2014 June ISIS seizes Mosul and other key towns in a lightening offensive. Thousands of civilians flee. The United States
and Iran both offer assistance to Iraqi government. ISIS renames itself the Islamic State and declares an Islamic caliphate covering territories in Syria and Iraq.

2014 September
Haider al-Abadi forms more diverse government, including Sunni Arabs and Kurds. Kurdish leadership tables its independence referendum. The United States announces and implements new strategy against Islamic State. U.S. Armed Forces launch airstrikes in support of Iraqi forces near Baghdad.

2014 December
Iraqi government and Kurdish leaders sign agreement on sharing Iraq’s oil revenue and military assets.

2015 January
U.S.-led coalition completes over 900 airstrikes against Islamic State.

2015 March
Islamic State fighters lay waste to Assyrian archaeological sites in Nimrud and Hatra.

2015 April
Iraqi security forces regain control of Tikrit from Islamic State.

2015 May
Islamic State seizes Ramadi.