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Al-Bayan Center for Planning and Studies

Al Bayan Observatory



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A periodical bulletin to monitor Iraqi affairs in international think tanks

About the Center

Al-Bayan Center for Planning and Studies is an independent, nonprofit think tank based in Baghdad, Iraq. In addition to other issues, its primary mission is to offer an authentic perspective on public and foreign policy issues related to Iraq in particular and the Middle East region in general. BCPS pursues its vision by conducting autonomous analysis and proposing workable solutions for complex issues that concern the political and academic fields.

Note:

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Since 2014

AMERICAN THINK TANKS AND MEDIA



Why America Is Still Failing in Iraq U.S. Military Force and Sanctions Can't Fix the Country's Broken Politics

Renad Mansour



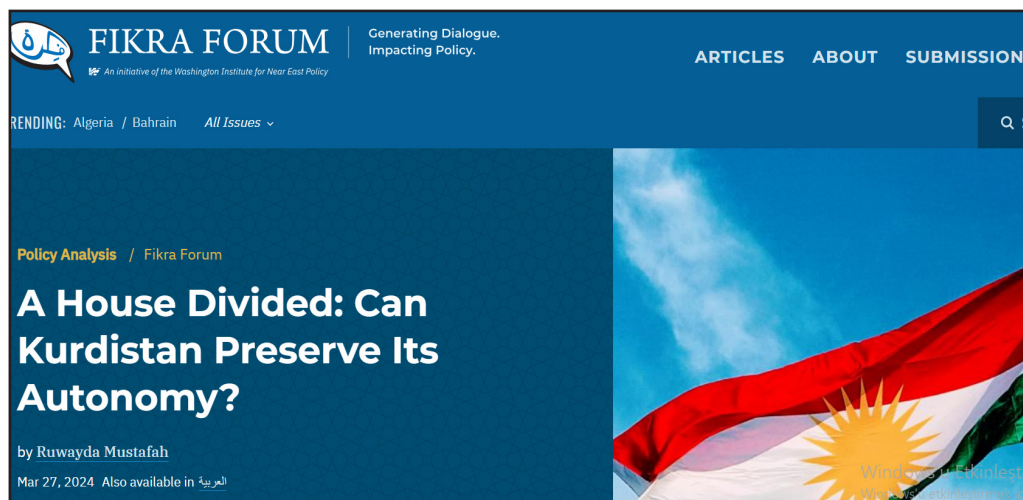
Foreign Affairs

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/iraq/why-america-still-failing-iraq>



Mansour asserts that “Washington has proved itself unable to tackle the true sources of these groups’ power, which lie not in military infrastructure alone but in the social and political structures of the Middle East.” For him, “armed groups in Iraq and Syria became powerful during the fight against the Islamic State, also known as ISIS, which in 2014 conquered a third of Iraq and almost half of Syria. When the U.S.-trained and U.S.-funded Iraqi military crumbled overnight, these groups joined the newly formed Popular Mobilization Forces, which was the first group to respond and resist further ISIS advances.” Pointing to US sanctions against some parts of Iraqi society, he writes that “Washington has proved itself unable to pursue a coherent strategy and navigate the networks that make up the Iraqi state. Isolating the good and targeting the bad has not always proved easy”.

A House Divided: Can Kurdistan Preserve Its Autonomy?



Ruwayda Mustafah, a prominent British-Kurdish activist and the founder of the Kurdish Policy Board, believes that the main driver of the continued decline in Kurdish autonomy is “not only the result of federal involvement; it is also due to the longstanding lack of cohesion and communication between the PUK and the KDP.” At the end, she concludes that “the recent KDP boycott of parliamentary elections, following the federal court’s ruling to dissolve the 11 minority quota seats, only hinders the KRG’s path to acquiring the much needed political mandate....The KDP and PUK face a stark choice: resume their self-serving squabbles and drawing Baghdad deeper into Kurdish politics as a result, or prioritize the people of Kurdistan... The region’s citizens deserve solutions to pressing issues: timely salaries, reduced inequality, sustainable agricultural policies, economic growth, and education. The time for political maneuvering is over, because any further loss of the KRG’s authority would simply bring an end to its autonomous status.”

Ruwayda Mustafah



**Washington Institute for
Near East Policy**

<https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/ar/policy-analysis/byt-mnqsm-h1-ttmkn-krdstan-mn-alhfaz-ly-astqlalytha>

Obstacles and Options in Baghdad-Erbil Negotiations

Fawzi al-Zubaidi



**Washington Institute for
Near East Policy**

<https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/ar/policy-analysis/almwqat-walkhyarat-fy-mfawdat-bghdad-arbyl>



Dr. Fawzi al-Zubaidi, believes that “The process of organizing relations between the federal government in Baghdad and the KRG within a constitutional framework requires a significant period of time. However, laying out the most critical points of negotiation is a key step in understanding the future of Baghdad-Erbil relations. It is critical for all parties to recognize that joint concessions, flexibility in negotiations, acceptance of the opinions of professional international technical committees on controversial issues, the role of Washington in bridging views, and the role of international organizations in providing technical and advisory support to Baghdad and Erbil, all are accelerators for the nation’s partners in building a prosperous federal Iraq. All these steps require political will and the acknowledgement that solving these issues—in spite of the compromise they require—is an urgent necessity. Otherwise, inaction on these files and an ability for Erbil and Baghdad to solve their internal issues will bear negative consequences for all.”

Between Power Sharing and Power Consolidation: The Impact of Iraq's Provincial Elections Results



Shimaa Ali



**Washington Institute for
Near East Policy**

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2024/02/26/us-iraq-iran-military-militia-attacks-sudani/>

Shimaa Ali, an Egyptian journalist and researcher in Iraqi and Iranian affairs, believes that “The Coalition Framework’s overall electoral successes in Iraq’s provincial elections is playing out in governor appointment decisions across much of the country, including in Baghdad and Basra. The ongoing competition in Kirkuk, however, highlights just how complicated power-sharing dynamics can become.” Considering the recent election a “significant and expected victory for Iran’s allies,” She concludes that “if the Shia Coordination Framework imposes its will on the Iraqi political scene, especially with the upcoming parliamentary elections scheduled for 2025, the likelihood of marginalizing Sunnis and Kurds will increase, threatening Iraq’s stability, enhancing Iran’s influence, and certainly affecting Baghdad’s relations with the

Barzani's Misplaced Hope for Dismissal of Kurdistan Victims Fund Case

Michael Rubin



**American Enterprise
Institute**

<https://www.aei.org/op-eds/barzani-misplaced-hope-for-dismissal-of-kurdistan-victims-fund-case/>



Pointing to the recent judiciary case in, lawyers for the Kurdistan Victims Fund filed an expansive case against Masoud, Masrour, and Waysi Barzani and many of their key aides, alleging a number of crimes ranging from corruption and counterfeiting to torture and murder, and documents each charge extensively, Michael Rubin asserts that “there are four reasons why Barzanis are foolish to believe the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia will dismiss the case on sovereign immunity grounds.” Referring to these four reasons, he concludes that “official Washington understands that even if the Barzanis manage to sidetrack parts of the lawsuit, they cannot erase its documentation of their crimes. Already, hearings are brewing in Congress. Even traditional Barzani friends now question whether the ruling family represent more trouble than it is worth.”

Towards an Independent Kurdistan: Self-Determination in International Law



Michael Rubin



**American Enterprise
Institute**

<https://www.aei.org/op-eds/book-review-towards-an-independent-kurdistan-self-determination-in-international-law/>

Michael Rubin believes that “the Kurds are the largest ethnic group to lack their own nation-state. Many scholars and diplomats make the moral or historical cases for Kurdish independence. None, however, has taken as deep a dive into what evolving international law with regard to self-determination might mean for Kurds as Loqman Radpey, who recently completed his Ph.D. in international law on the subject at the University of Edinburgh.” He describes that book called *Toward an Independent Kurdistan*, “a valuable addition to the personal collection of diplomats or journalists working on Kurdish issues. This is due to not only rich and nuanced content, but also an ability to write in plain if not somewhat dry English; unlike many academics, Radpey does not bow before the altar of academe to prioritize theory over reality or to obfuscate rather than elucidate knowledge.”

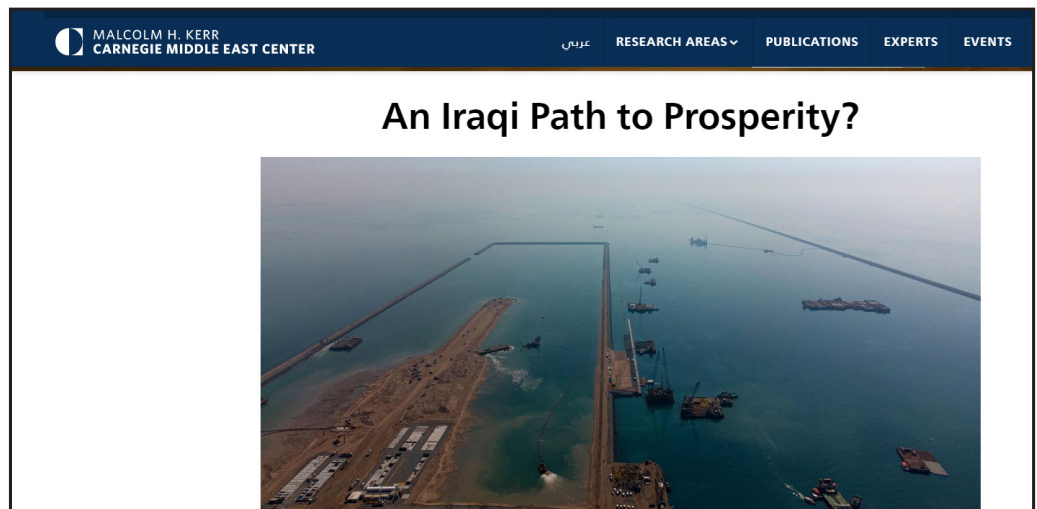
An Iraqi Path to Prosperity?

Michael Young talks to Harith Hasan



**Malcolm H. Kerr Carnegie
Middle East Center**

[https://carnegie-mec.org/
diwan/92019](https://carnegie-mec.org/diwan/92019)



Harith Hasan, in an interview with Michael Young, asserts that “there is growing interest, both in the region and globally, in developing new routes for cross-border international trade” In addition to that, “Iraq, like several countries in the region such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and other Gulf states, is witnessing a shift in interest toward megaprojects and cross-border trade.” For him, “after years of ethnic and sectarian divisions, the ruling elite is trying to look for new sources of legitimation, and here the idea of “development” is back again in the national discourse, but in a different way from the period of populist, socialist developmentalism during the 1960s and 1970s. The new model is more inclined toward open markets, integration into the global economy, and the expansion of service sectors”. He concluded that “efforts to increase the economic value of border zones through new ports and road networks could aggravate latent tensions and lead to further conflicts.”

Iraq's Development Road: Geopolitics, Rentierism, and Border Connectivity



Harith Hasan



**Malcolm H. Kerr Carnegie
Middle East Center**

<https://carnegie-mec.org/2024/03/11/iraq-s-development-road-geopolitics-rentierism-and-border-connectivity-pub-91939>

Harith Hasan, a nonresident senior fellow at the Malcolm H. Kerr Carnegie Middle East Center, writes that “The Development Road is an Iraqi project seeking to create a road and railway infrastructure connecting the Persian Gulf with Türkiye through Iraq, thereby benefiting from Iraq’s geography and multiple borders.” According to him, “for the Iraqi government to address skeptics’ views about the Development Road, it will need to focus on several key institutional reforms.” He concludes that “Iraq’s Development Road project aims to create an Iraqi transborder transportation network connecting the Persian Gulf with Türkiye. This network would enhance Iraq’s geopolitical status as a trade corridor and provide financial returns, reducing the state’s reliance on hydrocarbons. However, the project faces obstacles, including challenges of financing and implementation, widespread corruption, the potential for insecurity and instability in Iraq, and the fact that rival transborder projects in the region mean countries may work against its success.”

Baghdad's Centralization Push: Two Court Rulings Undercut Kurdish Autonomy and Washington's Role in

Iraq

Mohammad A. Salih



Wilson Center

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/baghdads-centralization-push-two-court-rulings-undercut-kurdish-autonomy-and-washingtons>

According to Mohammad A. Salih, “February 21 was a highly anticipated day in Iraq as the country’s Federal Supreme Court (FSC) convened, following several delays, to deliver rulings on two crucial issues concerning the autonomous Kurdistan region and its longstanding disputes with the federal government in Baghdad.” He concluded that “Washington holds significant leverage in this scenario. Iraq urgently requires US goodwill for both its fragile economy and military support against extremist groups. As Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia’ al-Sudani is expected to visit Washington in mid-April, US government leaders must ensure he grasps the importance of an economically and politically viable autonomous Kurdistan region, safeguarded from security threats posed by Iran and its allied militias in Iraq. A mutually satisfying deal would also bring much-needed stability to Iraq and support Prime Minister Sudani’s ambitious governance plans to improve the economy and Iraq’s engagement with the world.”

“My Marriage was Mistake after Mistake”

The Impact of Unregistered Marriages on Women’s and Children’s Rights in Iraq



Human Rights Watch

According to the Human Rights Watch, “despite being illegal under article 10 of the Personal Status Law (1959) , which governs all family matters for Muslims in Iraq, marriages entered into outside of the Personal Status Court continue to occur in Iraq. These marriages are conducted by religious leaders and are culturally accepted as valid marriages; however, they are not legally valid until they are registered with the Personal Status Court and the couple is issued a civil marriage contract.” At the end, it provides some recommendations to the parliament of Iraq, the Supreme Judicial Council, to the Iraqi Ministry of Education, to the Iraqi Ministry of Health and to NGOs and Civil Society Organizations, to solve this problem.

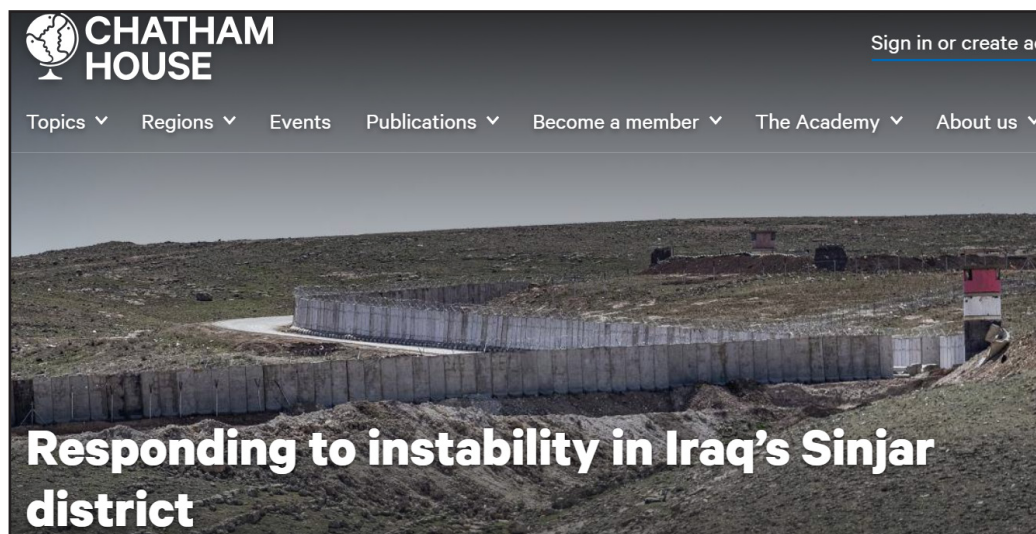
<https://www.hrw.org/ar/report/2024/03/03/387530>

EUROPEAN THINK TANKS AND MEDIA



Responding to instability in Iraq's Sinjar district

How a remote area of Iraq became a transnational conflict hub, and what this means for peacebuilding in the Middle East



Zmkan Saleem and Renad Mansour



Chatham House

According to Zmkan Saleem and Renad Mansour “Instability in the tiny Iraqi district of Sinjar, on the border with Syria and Türkiye, continues to exacerbate conflicts in the Middle East.” They argue that “for a transnational approach to tackling instability in Sinjar. This should aim to include the PKK and the PMF, along with their local allies, in a renegotiation of the Sinjar Agreement – an accord between the Iraqi central government and the KRG to stabilize Sinjar and allow the district’s displaced residents to return home. In exchange for being part of a future political settlement, the PKK and the PMF need to be compelled to agree to the strengthening of local institutions and the development of accountability mechanisms that ensure the rule of law. Resolving the conflict in Sinjar has the potential to reduce regional instability.”

<https://www.chathamhouse.org/2024/03/responding-instability-iraqs-sinjar-district>

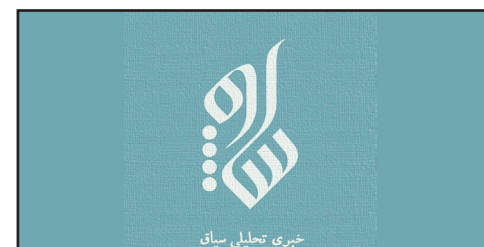
IRANIAN THINK TANKS AND AND MEDIA



Iranian views on Türkiye's potential military operation in Iraq



Masoud Sadr Mohammadi



<https://syaaq.com/33213/>

The author writes that “some experts believe that if Türkiye genuinely wants to eliminate terrorist threats against itself, it should launch operations against YPG positions in eastern Euphrates, northern Syria, rather than Iraq. According to these critics, the main security threat to Türkiye is in eastern Euphrates and northeastern Syria, where the Syrian branch of the PKK is establishing a governmental structure with the support of the US and NATO, fundamentally contradicting Türkiye’s strategic interests and territorial integrity. Moreover, the majority of PKK terrorists are trained in Syria, rather than Iraq, which has helped to strengthen PKK activities in Türkiye. As a result, Türkiye should prioritize operations in Syria.” He concludes that “according to these critics, considering Türkiye’s increasingly Western-oriented foreign policy approach, it is not surprising that Türkiye, by increasing its military presence in Iraq, would act as a barrier to Iran’s military responses to Israel and the United States in the event of a military attack.”

The prospect of US military withdrawal from Iraq

Siamak Kakai



Strategic Council for Foreign Relations

[https://www.scfr.ir/
fa/300/30102/264241/-چشم‌انداز-خروج-انظامی-آمریکا-از-عراق/](https://www.scfr.ir/fa/300/30102/264241/-چشم‌انداز-خروج-انظامی-آمریکا-از-عراق/)



According to Siamak Kakai, although in Iraq, most currents, politicians and even ordinary people want the withdrawal of American military forces from their country, there are sometimes differences of opinion regarding the time of this withdrawal. On the one hand, Mohammad Shia al-Sudani, the Prime Minister of Iraq, is very serious in demanding the withdrawal of American troops from Iraq; but he wants to achieve this goal through negotiation and political agreement. On the other hand, the Iraqi resistance groups want the Americans to leave this country as soon as possible. In the end, he concludes that: “the request of the public opinion of the region to protest against the presence of the United States has also increased; But in relation to Iraq, the important issue is the decision of the government of this country regarding the issue of the withdrawal of Americans”

An analysis of the possible withdrawal of US military forces from Iraq



According to Abbas Khomeini, there is a lot of political and field pressure for the withdrawal of American forces from Iraq, and this issue has made the continued presence of this country's military forces in Iraq more difficult on the eve of the American presidential elections. He also believes that the pressure of Iraqi public opinion has increased after the recent US attacks on the resistance forces of this country and they want to speed up the withdrawal of coalition forces from Iraq. In the end, he concludes that "just as the Americans could not resist in Yemen and left this country, they will face the same situation in Iraq, especially because the United States does not want to show itself in the vulnerable region on the eve of the presidential elections. In general, In Iraq, the situation is serious, difficult and complicated, as it seems that in a short period of time, the Americans will have to define a timetable for their withdrawal from Iraq."

Abbas Khomeini



Strategic Council for Foreign Relations

[https://www.scfr.ir/](https://www.scfr.ir/fa/300/30102/259133)
 تحلیل - بر - خروج - تحلیل
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The prospect of confrontation between America and Iraqi resistance groups

Ali Mousavi Khalkhali



Strategic Council for Foreign Relations

[https://www.scfr.ir/
fa/300/30102/264241/](https://www.scfr.ir/fa/300/30102/264241/) - خروج -
/نظامی - آمریکا - از - عراق



Ali Mousavi Khalkhali believes that “as long as the Gaza crisis, the US threat against the resistance movements in the region, and also the pressure on Iran as the main base of the resistance axis continue, in the shadow of these tensions, the confrontation between the US and the resistance groups in Iraq will continue.” He also points out that “Iraq does not want to be an arena for settling accounts with different powers in the region, because their political, economic and security interests require it.” In the end, he concludes that “the more the resistance groups, especially the resistance groups in Palestine, Syria, and Lebanon, weaken, the resistance movements in Iraq and Yemen will also weaken, so they are trying not to let the resistance movement in general in the region weaken as they know that if the axis of Palestinian resistance is weakened, it will also be detrimental to them”

Al-Sudani's serious determination to eliminate security threats

The future of PKK and increasing security

Mohammad Mehdi Maleki



Iranian Diplomacy Website

<http://www.irdiplomacy.ir/fa/news/2025154/>
 آینده-پ.ک.ک-و-افزایش-عراق-همکاری-امنیتی-ترکیه-و-عراق

According to the author, the presence and activity of groups that are a threat to the security of other countries is prohibited in the Iraqi constitution. The author believes that the leaders of the PKK are well aware of the situation they are in, Baghdad and prime minister Al-Sudani is personally seriously determined to solve and remove the security threats to Turkey and Iran (the implementation of the security agreement with Iran) and this means more calmness, peace, and stability for Iraq and the region, as well as the maximum weakening and moving towards the destruction of the structure of the aforementioned armed and trained group. In the end, he concludes that, naturally, the stability and security of the above-mentioned countries as an infrastructure for progress and development in other areas can increase trade exchanges between them, which is one of the important goals and agendas of Baghdad, Tehran and Ankara.

TURKISH THINK TANKS AND MEDIA



How will KDP's election boycott affect Iraqi politics?

GÖRÜŞ- KDP'nin seçim boykotu Irak siyasetini nasıl etkiler?

KDP'nin boykot hamlesinin Kerkük Vilayet Meclisini olumsuz etkileyeceğini söylemek yanlış olmaz.

Dr. Selçuk Bacalan | 27.03.2024 - Güncelleme : 27.03.2024



Selçuk Bacalan wrote about Kurdistan Democratic Party's decision to boycott the elections in Kurdistan Regional Government and the effects of this decision on the Iraqi and Kirkuk Provincial Council. He concludes that "Kurdistan Democratic Party, which instrumentalizes the representation of minorities through the quota system, is worried about losing power in the parliamentary elections to be held in Kurdistan Regional Government. Kurdistan Democratic Party, which decided to boycott the elections as a result of the decisions taken by the Federal Court, may change its decision if the salaries of Kurdistan Regional Government civil servants, who have not received their salaries for a long time due to administrative problems between Baghdad and Erbil, are paid by the Baghdad central government. It is important that the Kurdistan Democratic Party, which plays a decisive role in the balance of power between Turkey and Iran, which is in competition regarding the establishment of the Kirkuk Provincial Assembly, is seen on Turkey's side and contributes to the stability of Kirkuk.

Selçuk Bacalan



Anadolu Agency

<https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/analiz/gorus-kdpnin-secim-boykotu-irak-siyasetini-nasil-etkiler/3176043>

How do the developing Türkiye-Iraq relations resonate in Iraq?

Bilgay Duman



Anadolu Agency

<https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/analiz/gorus-gelisen-turkiye-irak-iliskileri-irakta-nasil-yanki-buluyor/3177049>



According to the author, “it is clear that the infrastructure and superstructure work in cities, especially in the capital Baghdad, which is the visible face of the country and the most populous city in terms of population, excite the public.” He concludes that “it can be said that Turkey views Erbil and Baghdad from a complementary rather than a divisive perspective within the scope of Iraq’s territorial integrity and political unity. The reconciliation and balance that will emerge between Erbil and Baghdad is important not only for Iraqi domestic politics but also for Turkey–Iraq relations and the regional equation. Because the developing process between Turkey and Iraq and the concrete steps to be taken can now turn into regional cooperation, the talk is now being expressed loudly. It seems that developments between Türkiye and Iraq can be a model for regional stability”.

The people of Sulaymaniyah are paying the price for PUK's support to the PKK



The author believes that “by supporting the Kurdistan Workers’ Party in Iraqi territory, Patriotic Union of Kurdistan contradicts both the current policies of the Iraqi central government and the Erbil-based Kurdistan Democratic Party which holds the majority of the Kurdistan Regional Government administration.” He concludes that “based on this, it is possible to say that the security meeting held in Iraq has a broader meaning than its name. The steps taken to end the existence of the terrorist organization Kurdistan Workers’ Party in Iraq are extremely important not only from a military perspective, but also for all issues that concern the relations between the two countries and will enable the establishment of a common future. Especially, holding such a meeting before the visit to Iraq, which is planned to be held in April, as announced by President Erdoğan, may bring about the steps that Erdoğan will put to the end.”

Sercan Çalışkan



Anadolu Agency

<https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/analiz/gorus-kybnin-pkky-verdigi-destegin-faturasini-suleymaniye-halki-oduyor/3169339>

Joint final declaration regarding the Türkiye-Iraq “Security Mechanism Meeting” was published

Sümeyye Dilara Dinçer



Anadolu Ajansı

Anadolu Agency

<https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/gundem/turkiye-irak-guvenlik-mekanizmasi-gorusmesine-iliskin-ortak-sonuc-bildirisi-yayimlandi/3164836>

Türkiye-Irak “Güvenlik Mekanizması Görüşmesi”ne ilişkin ortak sonuç bildirisi yayımlandı

Türkiye ile Irak arasında gerçekleştirilen “Güvenlik Mekanizması Görüşmesi”nde, tarafların, Cumhurbaşkanı Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’ın Irak’a yapacağı tarihi ziyaretin başarısı için tüm çabaların ortaya konacağını teyit ettiği belirtildi.

Sümeyye Dilara Dinçer | 14.03.2024 - Güncelleme : 15.03.2024



Gündem

AA, tüm yurtdışı seçim sonuçlarını sandık başından duyurdu

The author points out that “it was stated that in the “Security Mechanism Meeting” held between Turkey and Iraq, the parties confirmed that all efforts would be put forward for the success of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s historic visit to Iraq.” The author concludes that “In the statement, it was stated that the parties agreed to continue the negotiations in a regular and uninterrupted manner within the framework of the foreseen contact mechanisms. In the security-focused meeting held between Iraq and Turkey in December 2023, Iraq defined the Kurdistan Workers’ Party as a “common threat” and this time as a “banned organization” for the first time. In addition, while the decision of the Iraqi National Security Council was shared with the public for the first time, the joint struggle was mentioned for the first time and it was emphasized that the Kurdistan Workers’ Party was using Iraqi territory to target Turkey.”

Türkiye, Iraq gear up for President Erdogan's 'historic visit' to Baghdad



Faruk Zorlu, Alperen Aktas



Anadolu Agency

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/turkiye-iraq-gear-up-for-president-erdogan-s-historic-visit-to-baghdad/3164883>

According to the authors, “Türkiye expresses satisfaction with Iraqi National Security Council’s decision to designate PKK terrorist group banned organization in Iraq, says joint statement” they conclude that “both side underscored the importance of Iraq’s political unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity, it said. Additionally, they emphasized the threat posed by the PKK terror group to the security of both nations, highlighting that the presence of this group in Iraqi territory constitutes a violation of Iraq’s constitution, it added. The parties exchanged views on regional challenges, including the “massacre amounting to genocide” in Gaza, and strongly affirmed their support for the Palestinian cause, it said. In a security-oriented meeting held between Türkiye and Iraq in December, Iraq described the PKK terrorist group as a “common threat” and for the first time defined it as a “banned organization.”

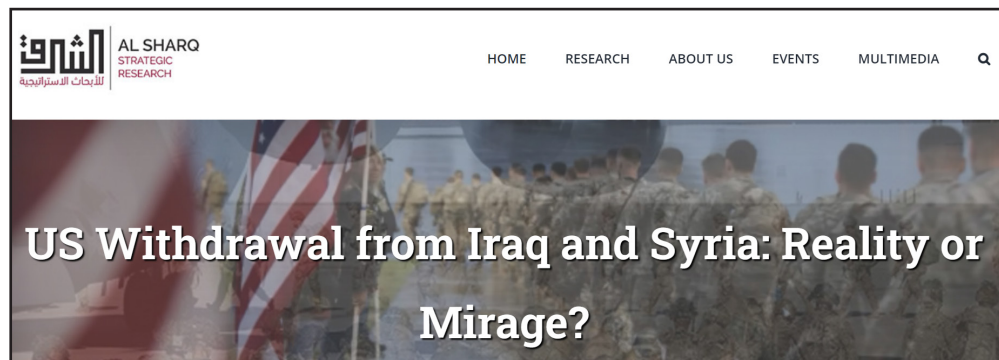
US Withdrawal from Iraq and Syria: Reality or Mirage?

Mehmet Emin Cengiz



Al-Sharq Forum

<https://research.sharqforum.org/2024/03/26/us-withdrawal-from-iraq-and-syria-reality-or-mirage/>



The author writes that “amidst the dire Gaza crisis, which has taken center stage in Middle Eastern politics, and in the wake of dozens of Iran-backed militia attacks on US bases located in Syria and Iraq, the rumors of a US pullout from the mentioned two countries are floating once again. However, the issue is far from being clear thus far.” He concludes that “a possible US withdrawal from Iraq as a result of the pressure of Iran-backed groups’ attacks on US bases will mean handing over the country to Iran entirely, given Tehran’s massive influence in the Iraqi political and military scene. Such a scenario will not be welcomed either by Erbil or by neighboring Türkiye. For a long period, Erbil, the capital of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), has been under the pressure of Tehran-backed militias’ attacks.”

New era for Turkish-Iraqi ties heralds key developments

New era for Turkish-Iraqi ties heralds key developments

BY BURHANETTIN DURAN | MAR 19, 2024 - 12:56 PM GMT+3 |



The author starts with mentioned that “Türkiye and Iraq issued a joint statement following last week’s security summit in Baghdad, marking the beginning of a new chapter in bilateral relations.” For him, Turkey’s battle against PKK and the Development Road Project are the most important issues of this visit. In addition to that, the author writes that “it is important to remember that the Iraqi government has been calling on the United States to withdraw from Iraq. Since such a move would make it impossible for American troops to remain in Syria, hardly anyone expects Washington to rush to a decision”. At the end, the author concludes that “Iraq needs to elevate its relations with Türkiye to a strategic level to counter-balance Iran’s significant influence in the post-U.S. period. Taking into consideration the energy file, starting with the resumption of oil shipments via northern Iraq, it becomes clearer what this “new chapter” entails.”

Burhanettin Duran

DAILY SABAH

Daily Sabah

<https://www.dailysabah.com/opinion/columns/new-era-for-turkish-iraqi-ties-heralds-key-developments>

Strategic rationality behind Türkiye-Iraq rapprochement

Murat Yeşilbaş

DAILY SABAH

Daily Sabah

<https://www.dailysabah.com/opinion/columns/new-era-for-turkish-iraqi-ties-heralds-key-developments>

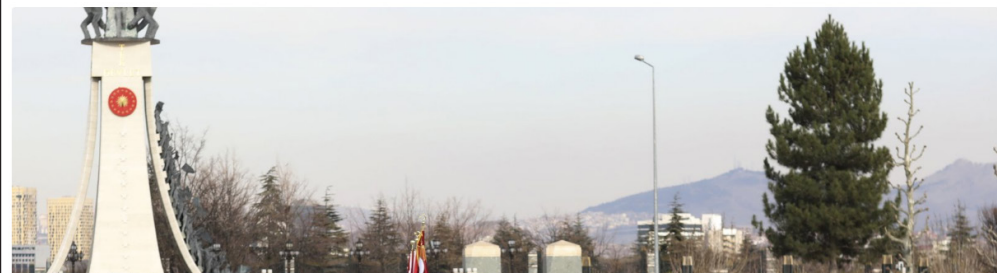


According to the author, “the recent Türkiye–Iraq agreement aims to combat terrorism, particularly the PKK and ISIS, elevate economic cooperation and prepare for potential U.S. withdrawals from Syria and Iraq...this accord signals a mutual eagerness to close a chapter of discord and paves the way for a comprehensive consensus on a range of issues, including a unified stance against the PKK. With President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s impending visit to Baghdad, and potentially Irbil, in April, this strategic alignment not only promises a sustainable framework for bilateral ties but also portends regional ramifications.” At the end, he concludes that “the evolving regional dynamics could herald a new era in Ankara–Baghdad relations. Achievements in Iraq may signal the onset of developments that bolster Ankara’s role in Middle Eastern politics. To achieve this strategic goal, collaboration is crucial, not just between Türkiye and Iraq but also with other regional actors.”

Türkiye, Iraq set political framework for Iraq's stabilization

Türkiye, Iraq set political framework for Iraq's stabilization

BY IHSAN AKTAŞ | MAR 09, 2024 - 12:05 AM GMT+3 |



According to the author, “recently, discussions surrounding Türkiye–Iraq relations have become increasingly prevalent. In prior years, Türkiye maintained an uninterrupted dialogue with Iraq. In the past, interactions between Türkiye and Iraq were primarily characterized by commercial exchanges, with occasional discussions on political matters. However, security concerns often played a significant role in shaping the overall dynamics of their relations.” In the end, he concludes that “The presence of railways, oil and natural gas pipelines, together with the main road to Iraq, assembles a critical transit and energy transfer framework. It appears we may need to introduce a new concept and incorporate a “pathway to stability” within the framework of the Iraqi “Development Road.” I believe Türkiye will take significant strides in fostering closer ties with Iraq. We are poised to witness significant progress in trade, security cooperation and cultural exchanges between Türkiye and Iraq, reflecting their longstanding historical position.

Ihsan Aktaş

DAILY SABAH

Daily Sabah

<https://www.dailysabah.com/opinion/columns/turkiye-iraq-set-political-framework-for-iraqs-stabilization>

Diplomacy Gaining Strength from the Field and Iraq

Can Acun



Sabah

<https://www.sabah.com.tr/yazarlar/perspektif/canacun/2024/03/23/sahadan-guc-kazanan-diplomasi-ve-irak>



According to the author, “a new era begins in Turkey’s fight against terrorism in the context of cross-border military operations. There is a process that is maturing with the increasing diplomatic traffic, especially after the first signs and the discourse created by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan regarding the steps to be taken in Iraq.” After discussing different issues related to the Turkey’s interests in north Iraq, he concludes that “PUK’s relevant course of action still has not changed. In the new period, Türkiye may begin to target the PUK directly militarily. At a time when KDP-PUK relations are becoming increasingly tense, the balances within the KRG may change with the support of Turkey. It would be in the PUK’s best interest to cut off its relations with the PKK without experiencing the high cost of cooperating with Turkey’s enemies.”

Development Path Project: New Hope for the Middle East



Bilgay Duman believes that “the recent rising momentum in Turkey-Iraq relations seems to have opened the doors to a new era with the visit to Iraq of Minister of Foreign Affairs Hakan Fidan, Minister of Defense Yaşar Güler, Director of the National Intelligence Organization İbrahim Kalın and Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs Münir Karaloğlu on March 14” He concludes that “it is clear that Turkey is aware of the problems facing Iraq and has developed strategies appropriate to this situation. President Erdoğan’s positioning of the Development Path Project as a regional cooperation effort beyond Turkey and Iraq shows that the project is being handled with a multilateral approach. This project aims not only to create a bridge from the Middle East to Europe, but also to strengthen Turkey’s connection with the Gulf countries.”

Bilgay Duman



Sabah

<https://www.sabah.com.tr/yazarlar/perspektif/bilgay-duman/2024/03/16/kalkinma-yolu-projesi-ortadoguya-yeni-umut>

Stability in Iraq depends on the destruction of the PKK

Murat Aslan



Sabah

https://www.sabah.com.tr/yazarlar/perspektif/murat-aslan/2024/03/16/irakta-istikrar-pkknin-yok-edilmesinden-geciyor?f=sm&utm_source=twitter.com

A screenshot of a news article from Sabah. The article is titled "Irak'ta İstikrar PKK'nın Yok Edilmesinden Geçiyor" (Stability in Iraq depends on the destruction of the PKK). The author is Murat Aslan, and the date is 16 Mart 2024, Cumartesi. The article text reads: "Türkiye'nin gündemi Aralık ayından bu yana üç kulvarı takip etti: seçim, ekonomi ve terör. Seçim ve ekonomi vatandaşlar arasında farklı görüşlerin seslendirilmesini teşvik etmiş olsa da üzerinde uzlaşılı olan konu terörün başının ezilmesi. Bu konuda vatani ve devleti benliğinde hissedenler arasında bir tereddüt yok. Nitekim". The screenshot also shows the Sabah logo, navigation tabs (SON DAKİKA, GÜNDEM, EKONOMİ, YAŞAM, EĞİTİM, DÜNYA, RESMİ), and social media sharing icons (Facebook, X, YouTube, Print).

According to Murat Aslan. “Turkey’s agenda has followed three tracks since December: elections, economy and terrorism. Although the election and the economy have encouraged the voicing of different views among citizens, the consensus is on crushing the head of terrorism. There is no hesitation on this issue among those who feel the homeland and the state within themselves.” He concludes that, “the initiative that Turkey will initiate with the Iraqi central government and the Kurdish Regional Government in the field of combating terrorism can therefore make a positive contribution to the Iraqi political balance. Turkey’s PKK-focused demands are actually very simple: ending the PKK’s freedom of movement in Iraq, strengthening the border security of the two countries through joint efforts, and increasing the capacity of the Iraqi Armed Forces and Peshmerga in the fight against the PKK. The end result is the “destruction” of the PKK”

A new era in Türkiye - Iraq relations

☰ **Milliyet** Son Dakika Gündem Yazarlar Ekonomi Dünya Resmi İlanlar 

Türkiye - Irak ilişkilerinde yeni dönem

19 Mart 2024

Bilgay Duman - Son dönemde Türkiye - Irak ilişkilerinde yaşanan güvenlik merkezli görüşmeler, iki ülke ilişkilerinde yeni bir dönemin kapısını aralayacak gibi. Her ne kadar iki taraf arasındaki diplomasi trafiğinde güvenlik ön plana çıksa da, özellikle Kalkınma Yolu Projesi, ticari faaliyetlerin gelişmesi, enerji iş birliği gibi alanlar başta olmak üzere Türkiye - Irak ilişkilerinin bir üst aşamaya geçeceği görülüyor.

According to Bilgay Duman, “the recent security-centered talks in Turkey-Iraq relations seem to open the door to a new era in the relations between the two countries. Although security comes to the fore in the diplomatic traffic between the two sides, it seems that Turkey-Iraq relations will move to the next level, especially in areas such as the Development Road Project, the development of commercial activities and energy cooperation.” He concludes that “it seems that Turkey also attaches importance to Baghdad - Erbil cooperation and dialogue. It is noteworthy that the KRG Minister of Internal Affairs also took part in the meetings held in Baghdad. If a common process can be developed in the Ankara-Baghdad-Erbil dialogue, it can be said that this process will bring positive results not only in terms of the relations between the two countries but also in terms of the regional equation. Turkey’s efforts to give a “regional” quality to the Development Road Project is remarkable in this sense. In other words, the direction of Türkiye-Iraq relations is likely to trigger regional cooperation processes.”

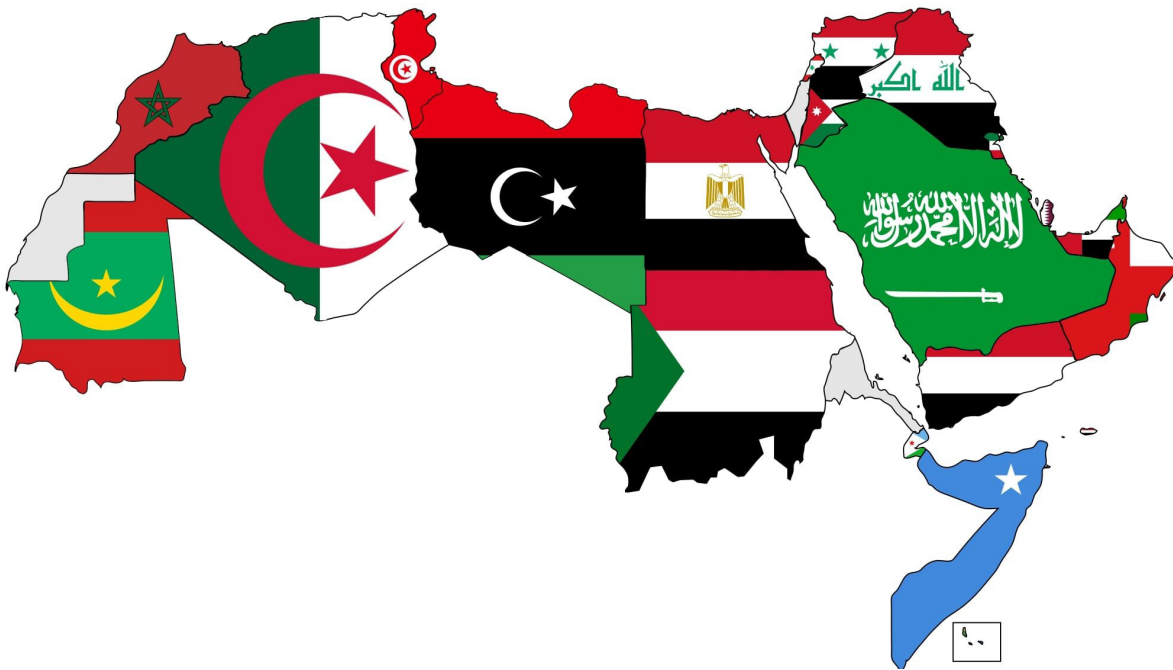
Bilgay Duman



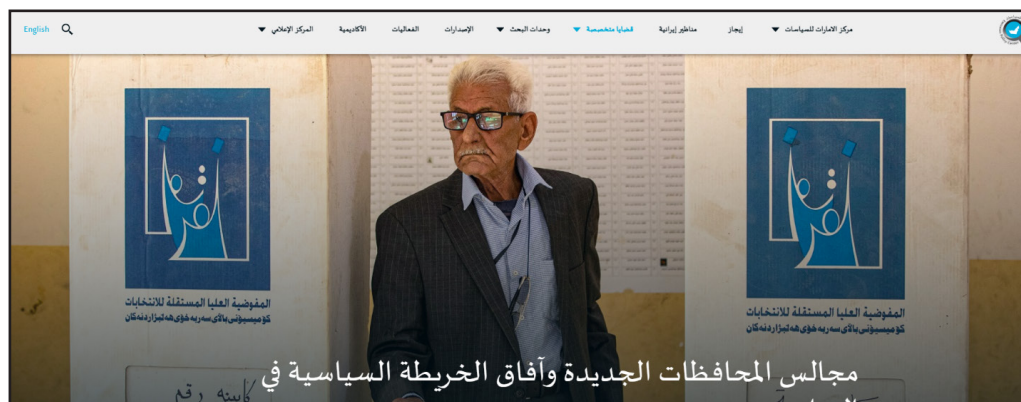
Milliyet

<https://www.milliyet.com.tr/yazarlar/dusunenlerin-dusuncesi/turkiye-irak-iliskilerinde-yeni-donem-7096949>

ARAB THINK TANKS



The New Provincial Councils and the Prospects of the Political Map in Iraq



Aqeel Abbas

The outcomes of the recent provincial councils' elections have imposed new realities on the Iraqi political map that could reflect on the upcoming general elections. Notably, the loss of three significant Shiite provinces—Basra, Karbala, and Wasit—by the ruling Shiite coalition, the Coordination Framework, to local competing forces. This experience may encourage other governors in Basra, Wasit, and Karbala to form their own political bases in the future based on popular support derived from good performance in office, leading to their detachment from the ruling Coordination Framework. Similarly, the provincial elections' results may encourage the Prime Minister, Mohammed Shia' Al-Sudani, to continue forming his own political force for the next general parliamentary elections, achieving a parliamentary presence that distances him from the dominance of the Coordination Framework. Thus, an electoral alliance between the three governors and Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' Al-Sudani could lead to a reshaping of the Iraqi political scene in realistic directions that support reformist tendencies. However, the durability of such an alliance against the maneuvers of the Coordination Framework remains to be seen.



Emirates Policy Center

<https://epc.ae/ar/details/featured/majalis-almuhafazat-aljadida-wafaq-alkharita-alsiyasia-fi-aleiraq>

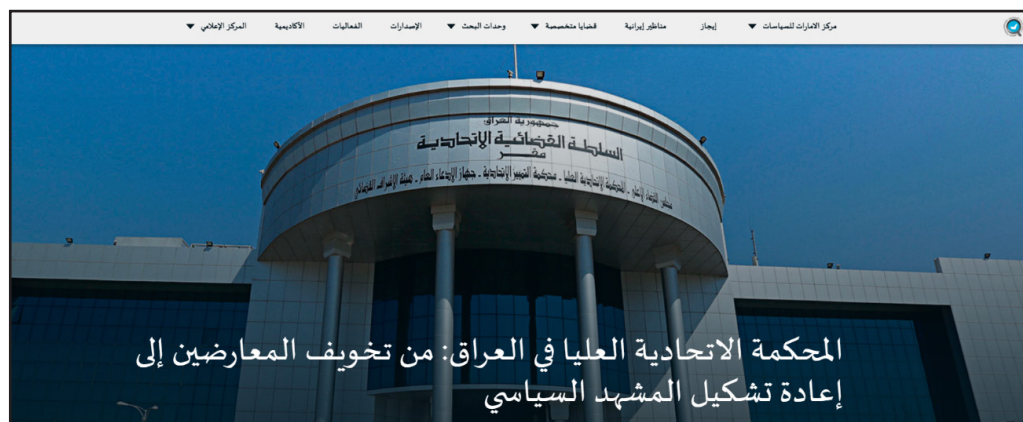
The Iraqi Supreme Court: From Intimidating Opposition to Reshaping Political Landscape

Iraq Studies Unit



Emirates Policy Center

<https://epc.ae/ar/details/scenario/almahkama-alaitihadia-alulya-fi-aleiraq-min-takhwif-almuaridin-ila-ieadat-tashkil-almashhad-alsiyasi>



This paper reviews the ongoing debate surrounding the decisions of the Federal Supreme Court and their increasing impact on the Iraqi political scene. With the rising significance of the Federal Supreme Court, Iraq is heading towards a radical political transformation that may negatively affect other political parties. This shift could threaten the existing consensus among the country's main sects – Shiites, Sunnis, and Kurds. If the Federal Supreme Court continues to play its current role, the future may see the formation of a broad front opposing the Court, comprising forces adversely affected by its decisions. These groups will demand the enactment of the Federal Supreme Court Law as stated in the 2005 Constitution, which could lead to the termination of the current Court's operations. In the absence of such legislation, political parties must provide solid guarantees, especially to the Sadrist movement, to ensure their participation in the upcoming elections without fear of biased judicial decisions, similar to what occurred after the 2021 elections.

Others

Cultivating the Future: Ahmed's Path to Sustainable Agriculture in Iraq

Iraq Studies Unit



United Nations

<https://www.undp.org/iraq/stories/cultivating-future-ahmeds-path-sustainable-agriculture-iraq>



This report is about Ahmat, an Iraqi citizen that has used UN trainings in agriculture. According to this report “in Iraq, agriculture is a cornerstone in tackling food problems and creating employment opportunities, especially in rural areas. With its potential to combat environmental degradation and water scarcity, hydroponics is proving to be a good solution for sustainable food production. By growing plants without soil and using nutrient-rich water solutions, hydroponics saves water, a precious resource in Iraq. It also enables year-round cultivation, reducing dependence on seasonal weather patterns and mitigating the impact of extreme temperatures and desert conditions on crop yields. The United Nations Development Program seeks to provide all transformative possibilities for modern agriculture in Iraq. With the introduction of advanced irrigation technologies, such as those offered by companies like Hutter, Iraq can address water issues while increasing agricultural productivity and sustainability. Capacity-building initiatives like the one in Shirqat are critical steps towards achieving food security and agricultural resilience in Iraq.