



مركز البيان للدراسات والتخطيط
Al-Bayan Center for Planning and Studies

Al Bayan Observatory



September 2023

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:

The opinions expressed in the article do not necessarily reflect the directions adopted by the Center but rather the opinion of its authors.

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Since 2014

AMERICAN THINK TANKS AND MEDIA



Trilateral Agreement Necessary to Resolve Turkey-Iraq Oil Dispute

Yerevan Saeed



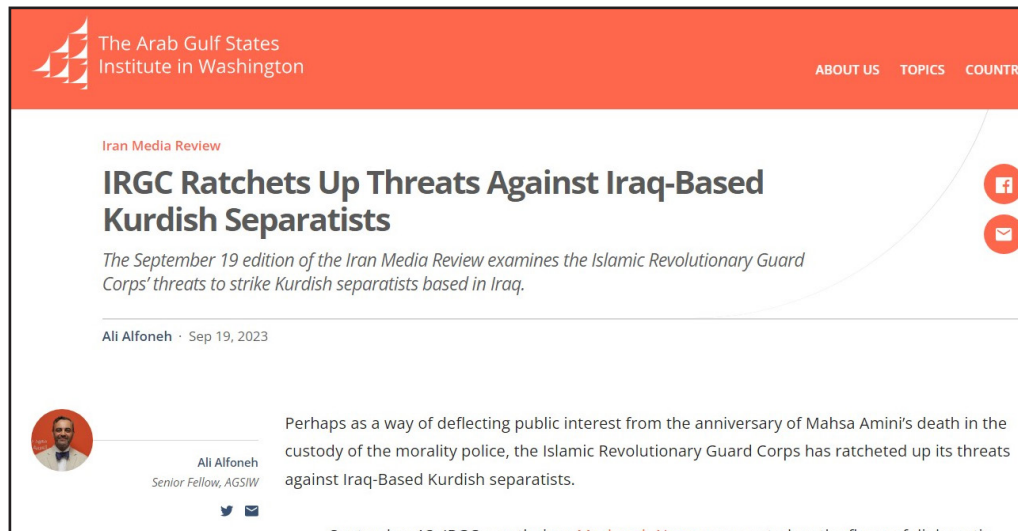
Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington

<https://agsiw.org/trilateral-agreement-necessary-to-resolve-turkey-iraq-oil-dispute/>

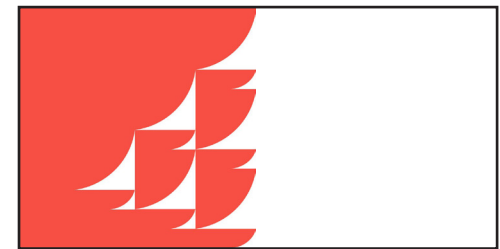


Yerevan Saeed, a visiting scholar at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington and former lecturer at the University of Kurdistan Hewler, believes that “the resumption of Kurdish oil exports hinges on achieving consensus between Baghdad and Ankara, but a lasting solution can only be cemented through a trilateral agreement that includes Erbil”. Ultimately, he concludes that “for Turkey, the Kurdish issue has become particularly sensitive, although the impact on Turkey’s relations with the KRG is not clear. Some key political parties are increasingly embracing anti-Kurdish narratives focused primarily on Kurds in Turkey. And the Turkish local elections scheduled for March 2024 are already shaping political calculations in Ankara. Despite the hurdles, there are vital political, security, and economic interests at stake for all parties involved. Although the resumption of Kurdish oil exports hinges on achieving consensus between Baghdad and Ankara, a lasting solution can only be cemented through a mutually beneficial trilateral agreement that includes Erbil.”

IRGC Ratchets Up Threats Against Iraq-Based Kurdish Separatists



Ali Alfoneh



Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington

<https://agsiw.org/irgc-ratchets-up-threats-against-iraq-based-kurdish-separatists/>

Ali Alfoneh, senior fellow at Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington, asserts, “The September 19 edition of the Iran Media Review examines the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps’ threats to strike Kurdish separatists based in Iraq.” He believes that “perhaps as a way of deflecting public interest from the anniversary of Mahsa Amini’s death in the custody of the morality police, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps has ratcheted up its threats against Iraq-Based Kurdish separatists” At the end, he writes that “ending the article by discussing the recent deployment of IRGC [Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps] forces to northwestern Iran near the border of Iraq’s Kurdistan region, Mashregh [website news] concluded: “...the recent activities of the Revolutionary Guard are a precise signal to the supporters and financial backers of terrorists in the region: The more tensions rise, the harder the blows will be!”

“Iraq’s Sectarian Relapse: Lessons of the “Shia House

Thanassis Cambanis



The Century Foundation

<https://tcf.org/content/report/iraqs-sectarian-relapse-lessons-of-the-shia-house/>



Thanassis Cambanis, Senior Fellow and Director of Century International, whose work focuses on U.S. foreign policy, Arab politics, and social movements in the Middle East, believes that “many Iraqis say they are tired of sectarianism and desire a national politics of common interests. The Tishreen movement that began in 2019 seemed to open a promising new chapter of trans-sectarian vision in Iraq. Nonetheless, sectarian and identity politics continue to dominate Iraq through institutional advantage, communal ties, and the effective use of violence. In the political crisis of 2021–22, an alliance of Shia parties doubled down on such strategies in a sobering rebuke of the trans-sectarian spirit—a “sectarian relapse. Still, Iraqis are increasingly organizing along political and ideological rather than ethno-sectarian lines, and the next phase will pose a serious and welcome test for sectarianism in Iraq.”

Shia Rule Is a Reality in Iraq. “Shia Politics” Needs a New Definition

Fanar Haddad

COMMENTARY CENTURY INTERNATIONAL

Shia Rule Is a Reality in Iraq. “Shia Politics” Needs a New Definition.



The Century Foundation

<https://tcf.org/content/commentary/shia-rule-is-a-reality-in-iraq-shia-politics-needs-a-new-definition-arabic/ar/>

Fanar Haddad, believes that “the traditional definition of the term “Shiite politics” in Iraq refers to sect-focused factions and Shiite Islamists, but today this definition excludes many politically active Shiite Iraqis, and so the time has come to develop a new analytical framework.” He concludes that “the changes that have occurred in the past two decades and the complexity of Iraqi politics may have made this term obsolete. It may be logical to dispense with the term, especially considering that it is a Western term and not derived from an Iraqi or Middle Eastern synonym. We need to re-evaluate the meaning of the concept of Shiite politics, and whether the term is still valid or not, as its current use is based on old assumptions, and our current understanding of the meaning of this term has not kept pace with the radical transformations in the past two decades.”

Satellite Monitoring Reveals the Startling Extent of Iraq's Water Crisis

Husam Sobhi



The Century Foundation

<https://tcf.org/content/commentary/satellite-monitoring-reveals-the-startling-extent-of-iraqs-water-crisis/>



Husam Sobhi, a biologist and environmental activist specializing in Iraq and a founding member of the Iraqi Green Observatory asserts that “water resources in Iraq face critical challenges that threaten their sustainability and have a profound impact on the livelihoods of the population and the environment. In the past four years, the country has experienced a deeply concerning decline in water sources and a noticeable degradation in water quality, which have affected the viability of agriculture in certain areas.” He concludes that “Iraq is at the epicenter of a global drought crisis. It ranks as the world’s fifth-most vulnerable country, in terms of climate change... Further, internal water mismanagement—including unregistered agricultural projects and fish farms—exacerbates the situation. This mismanagement is overseen by individuals who lack authorization for their work from relevant ministries, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Environment, and the Ministry of Water Resources.

Nechirvan Barzani's Road Map Makes a Wrong Turn



Kamal Chomani and Michael Rubin



National Interest

<https://nationalinterest.org/feature/nechirvan-barzani%E2%80%99s-road-map-makes-wrong-turn-206803>

Kamal Chomani, a non-resident fellow at the Kurdish Peace Institute, and Michael Rubin, a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, believe that “Nechirvan Barzani’s Road Map Makes a Wrong Turn. If any road maps are needed, they are a path to good governance and reform on one hand, and a process to restore stolen assets to the Kurdish people on the other.” At the end, they conclude that “cynicism is rife in Erbil precisely because the leadership often funds praise and encourages sycophancy. To then equate poorly articulated Kurdish statements as “strategic vision” is farcical...The Barzanis have had their time. Cheap theatrics may assuage politicians’ egos, but they diminish those scholars and journalists who allow Kurdish politicians to use them. If any road maps are needed, they are a path to good governance and reform on one hand, and a process to restore stolen assets to the Kurdish people on the other.

Barzani Could Destabilize Iraq Again

Michel Rubin

1945

19fortyfive Website

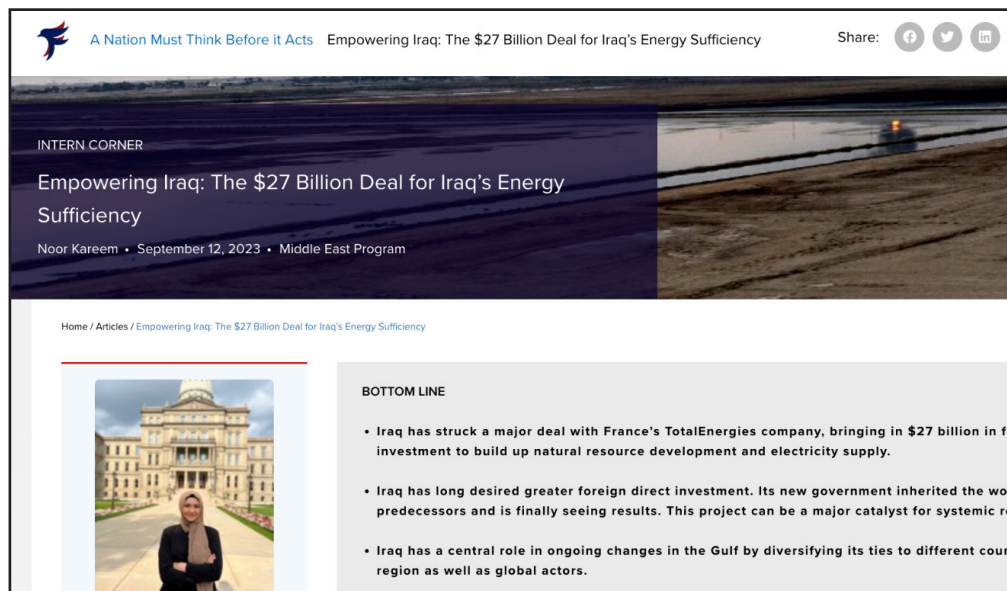
<https://www.19fortyfive.com/2023/09/barzani-could-destabilize-iraq-again/>



The screenshot shows a website header with the year '1945' in large red font. Navigation links include 'About Us', 'Advertise', 'Submissions', and 'Meet Our Editorial Team'. Below the header, there are links for 'Editorial Guidelines And Publishing Standards' and 'Privacy'. The main content area features the text 'THE EMBASSY' in bold, followed by the article title 'Barzani Could Destabilize Iraq Again' in a large, bold, black font. Below the title, a sub-headline reads: 'Iraq is far wealthier now than in 2003, though far below its potential.'

Michael Rubin, a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, asserts that “Iraq is far wealthier now than in 2003, though far below its potential. Sudani is repaving roads and building highways in a way that benefits all Iraqis, whether impoverished or elite.” He concludes that “The Barzanis are also upset that Sudani’s government has upstaged them financially. This is not his fault, but rather the result of Barzani corruption and incompetent management. Still, the fact that Iraq exports oil and pays salaries while Kurdistan does not and remains in arrears causes the Barzanis’ resentment toward Sudani to grow... Earlier this month, tension erupted into bloodshed when Iraqi security forces fired on Kurdish protesters... Should security diminish, Sudani will hemorrhage support. He may find there are politicians waiting in the wings who are far more ambitious than any technocrat he might put into the intelligence service.

Empowering Iraq: The \$27 Billion Deal for Iraq's Energy Sufficiency



Noor Kareem, a student at Yale University pursuing a B.A. in Ethnicity Race and Migration and a certificate in Energy Studies, believes that “Iraq has struck a major deal with France’s TotalEnergies company, bringing in \$27 billion in foreign investment to build up natural resource development and electricity supply. Iraq has long desired greater foreign direct investment. Its new government inherited the work of predecessors and is finally seeing results. This project can be a major catalyst for systemic reforms. Iraq has a central role in ongoing changes in the Gulf by diversifying its ties to different countries in the region as well as global actors. Foreign help is not enough to fix energy issues, domestic reform is necessary. At the end, she states that “despite the notable strides in foreign relations, Iraq’s energy crisis is not rooted in any shortage of natural wealth, but in Iraq’s failure to utilize that wealth due to corruption.”

Noor Kareem

Foreign Policy Research Institute

<https://www.fpri.org/article/2023/09/empowering-iraq-the-27-billion-deal-for-iraqs-energy-sufficiency/>

Iraq: Torture Survivors Await US Redress, Accountability

WINTHROP RODGERS

HUMAN
RIGHTS
WATCH

Human Rights Watch

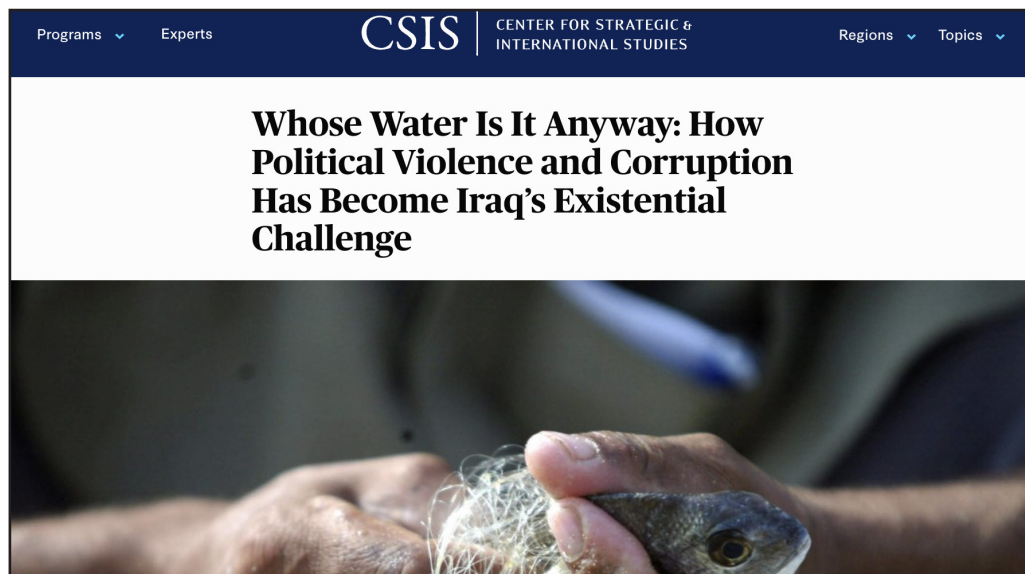
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/09/25/iraq-torture-survivors-await-us-redress-accountability>



No Clear Path to Compensation for Iraqis Abused in Detention by US Forces

Human Rights Watch states that “The US government has apparently failed to provide compensation or other redress to Iraqis who suffered torture and other abuse by US forces at Abu Ghraib and other US-run prisons in Iraq two decades ago. Iraqis tortured by US personnel still have no clear path for receiving redress or recognition from the US government though the effects of torture are a daily reality for many Iraqi survivors and their families. In August 2022, the Pentagon released an action plan to reduce harm to civilians in US military operations, but it doesn’t include any way to receive compensation for past instances of civilian harm.” Sarah Yager, Washington director of Human Rights Watch, states that “US officials have indicated that they prefer to leave torture in the past, but the long-term effects of torture are still a daily reality for many Iraqis and their families.”

Whose Water Is It Anyway: How Political Violence and Corruption Has Become Iraq's Existential Challenge



Natasha Hall and Husam Sobhi



Center for Strategic & International Studies

<https://www.csis.org/analogy/whose-water-it-anyway-how-policy-violence-and-corruption-has-become-iraqs-existential>

Natasha Hall, a senior fellow with the Middle East Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, discusses the current situation of water reservoirs in Iraq. At the end, she concludes that “With one of the fastest growing populations in the region and, inversely, decreasing renewable water per person, Iraq will need to advocate for its own water security. As the graph below shows, the Iraqi government must provide for a population that will nearly double by 2050, increasing the strain on water and sanitation infrastructure just as the country falls into the category of water scarcity at below 1,000 cubic meters of renewable water per capita annually. The way forward is difficult to envision and not assured, but there are no alternatives for a country that is running out of time and water. What is clear is that ignoring these vested interests in favor of the status quo is a recipe for disaster.”

Ethnic Tension in Kirkuk Signals Fractures in Ankara-Erbil Relations

Bekir Aydoğın



**Washington Institute for
Near East Policy**

<https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/ethnic-tension-kirkuk-signals-fractures-ankara-erbil-relations>

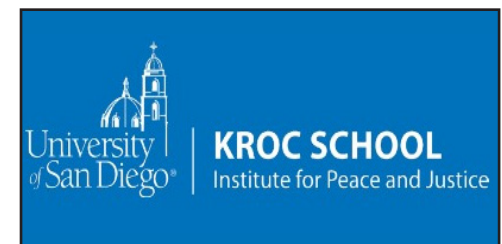


Bekir Aydoğın, an Erbil-based journalist focusing on Iraqi Kurdistan, believes that “longstanding tensions in the multi-ethnic city of Kirkuk in Iraq may once again spark confrontations between Turkey and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), the latest in a series of disagreements over the city.” At the end, he concludes that “if the elections in Kirkuk are not postponed in order to prevent a possible crisis, the focus should be on managing the provincial elections in a transparent manner with UN mediation. And in case of a governor change, it should be delivered peacefully to the winning party. Otherwise, the possible tension after the provincial elections, which have the power to reshuffle the balance in Kirkuk, may have dire consequences that are greater than those in the transfer of the KDP building and reminiscent of the aftermath of the referendum.”

Iraq Case Study: International presence as a form of protection



Nesreen Barwari



19fortyfive.com

<https://digital.sandiego.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1075&context=ipj-research>

The conclusion and recommendations of this study are as follows: “women peacebuilders in Iraq face serious security threats and are often restricted by patriarchal norms. Partnership with international organizations offers key protections, but peacebuilders often feel that their priorities and feedback are not taken into consideration. In light of this case study’s findings, international partners should: Support the Government of Iraq in creating a legal framework and mechanisms to protect women in general. Provide legal support centers for women activists. Design projects in collaboration with local partners, so they are part of the design process as well as implementation. Fund projects longer term, helping to sustain results and achieve desired goals. Conduct trainings related to the field of security and safety that include methods and tools for protection. Provide support for health-related and social needs when women peacebuilders are exposed to risks. Recognize the work women peacebuilders do in public settings and political discussions. Provide ongoing psychological support for women peacebuilders.”

Iraq as It Is .. America Can Help the Country, Despite Iranian Influence

Steven Simon and Adam Weinstein

FOREIGN
AFFAIRS

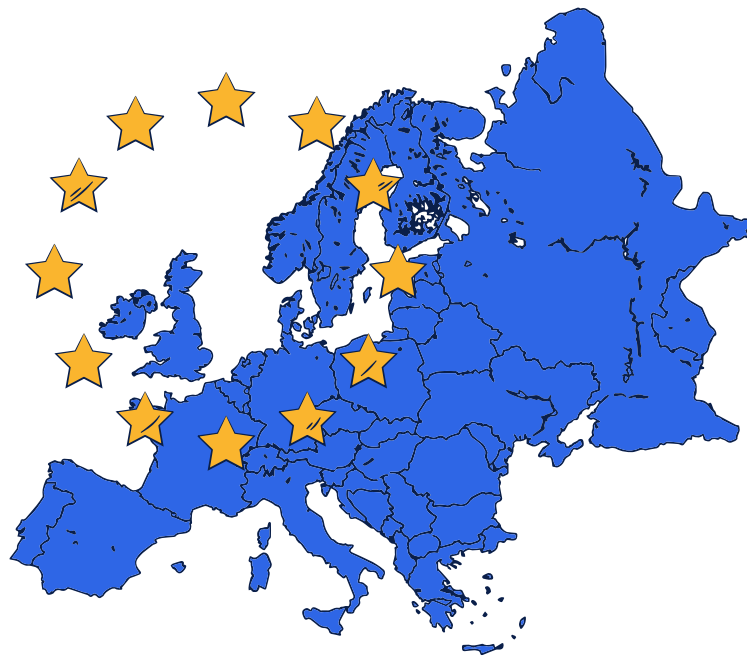
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/united-states/iraq-as-it-is-iran>



Steven Simon, Professor of Practice in Middle Eastern Studies at University of Washington's Jackson School of International Studies; and Adam Weinstein, Deputy Director of the Middle East Program at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, write that "Iraq has been an enemy, a friend, and a frenemy of the United States, depending on the administration in Washington. Now, after two years of relative stability in Iraq and a new government in the United States, the two countries may finally be on the path to sustainable relations. In early August, representatives from both countries met in Washington to launch negotiations on a long-term defense partnership. This dialogue and any potential agreement to follow may settle an enduring question: what kind of relationship should the United States seek with Iraq. Now, the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden has assigned itself the task of moving beyond this shifting legacy and normalizing the relationship once and for all."

EUROPEAN THINK TANKS AND MEDIA



Water crises – water opportunities promoting water cooperation in the Middle East

Houdret, Annabelle and Tobias von Lossow



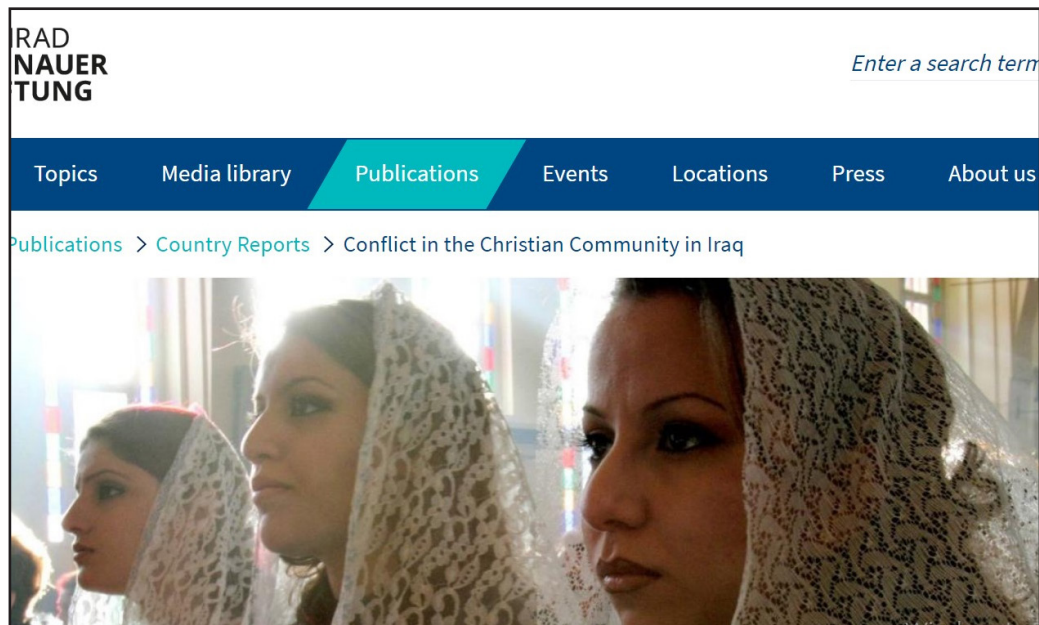
**German Institute of
Development and
Sustainability (IDOS)**

<https://www.idos-research.de/en/others-publications/article/water-crises-water-opportunities-promoting-water-cooperation-in-the-middle-east/>



Climate change exacerbates the pronounced water scarcity in the Middle East and also acts as a threat multiplier, for instance in the areas of health, food security and livelihoods... This study presents an alternative approach to boost inter-state water cooperation in the region. Looking into five prominent water-related action areas at national and local levels uncovers entry points for inter-state cooperation. These action areas are: (1) the water-energy-food-ecosystems (WEFE) nexus; (2) water-related ecosystems; (3) water knowledge through data collection, citizen science, awareness raising and social science expertise; (4) water-related disaster risk management at transboundary level; and (5) water cooperation in the context of displacement, migration and reconstruction... This places emphasis on individual and shared benefits for the countries from measures implemented in a multi-level approach: at local level (sometimes in border regions), at national level (not least in dialogue with other states in the region) and at regional level.

Conflict in the Christian Community in Iraq



Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

<https://www.kas.de/en/country-reports/detail/-/content/konflikt-in-der-christlichen-gemeinschaft-im-irak>

The report argues that “The number of Christians in the Middle East has declined rapidly in recent decades. For example, while around 1.5 million Christians still lived in Iraq after the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003, there are no more than 250,000 today. The reasons for this vary. In particular, armed conflicts and the reign of terror of the so-called Islamic State (IS) in parts of Iraq have intensified the exodus of Iraqi Christians. Even after the end of IS rule, the situation of the Christian community in Iraq, which is one of the oldest in the entire region, is difficult. But in addition to external factors, internal ones are increasingly playing a role: Iraqi Christians are threatened with a split that could lead to the breakup of the community”

Equal No More: The Breakdown of Power-Sharing in Iraqi Kurdistan

Winthrop Rodgers



**The Royal United Services
Institute for Defence and
Security Studies**

<https://www.rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/equal-no-more-breakdown-power-sharing-iraqi-kurdistan>

Equal No More: The Breakdown of Power-Sharing in Iraqi Kurdistan

Winthrop Rodgers

11 September 2023

🕒 8 Minute Read

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Winthrop Rodges writes that “The erosion of the ‘50-50’ principle of splitting power between Iraqi Kurdistan’s main political parties could have serious consequences for the future of the region.” He concludes that “For outside analysts, there are no recommendations for healing this divide that have not already been suggested in countless policy papers: Kurdish political leaders appear set on forging their own future and ignoring the advice of their foreign partners. Nevertheless, the dynamics around 50-50 provide the key to understanding what is happening in the Kurdistan Region. Neither the KDP’s approach of establishing political dominance nor the PUK’s dual response of insisting on a status it no longer merits and turning to Baghdad will serve the interests of Kurdish unity and self-government. 50-50 was a deeply flawed system, but its erosion is allowing the partisanship inherent in the arrangement to grow unchecked. This will have serious consequences for the future of the Kurdistan Region.”

A new railway will at last link Iran and Iraq

The connection could shunt Iraq further into Iran's embrace

Middle East & Africa | Only connect

A new railway will at last link Iran and Iraq

The connection could shunt Iraq further into Iran's embrace



ECONOMIST

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2023/09/07/a-new-railway-will-at-last-link-iran-and-iraq>

Economist writes that “or more than a century the geographical and political obstacles to a direct rail connection between Iraq and Iran have looked insurmountable. The Shatt al-Arab, the waterway formed by the convergence of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, divides their southern border. The frontier also marks a cultural fault line, between the Arab and Persian worlds, which has been a source of conflict for millennia. Little wonder that when the great powers built railways to Iraq in the early 20th century they preferred to cut through the Taurus mountains in Turkey”. At the end, it concludes that “Iraqi traders fret that their government will stop developing the country’s own port, at Faw, and use Iranian ones instead. “We should be reopening our railways from Basra, to Turkey and Europe,” says Amer Abdul-Jabber Ismail, an Iraqi ex-transport minister. “We’re just serving an Iranian and Syrian agenda instead.”

All aboard, Iraq plans to steam into a new future

James Watt



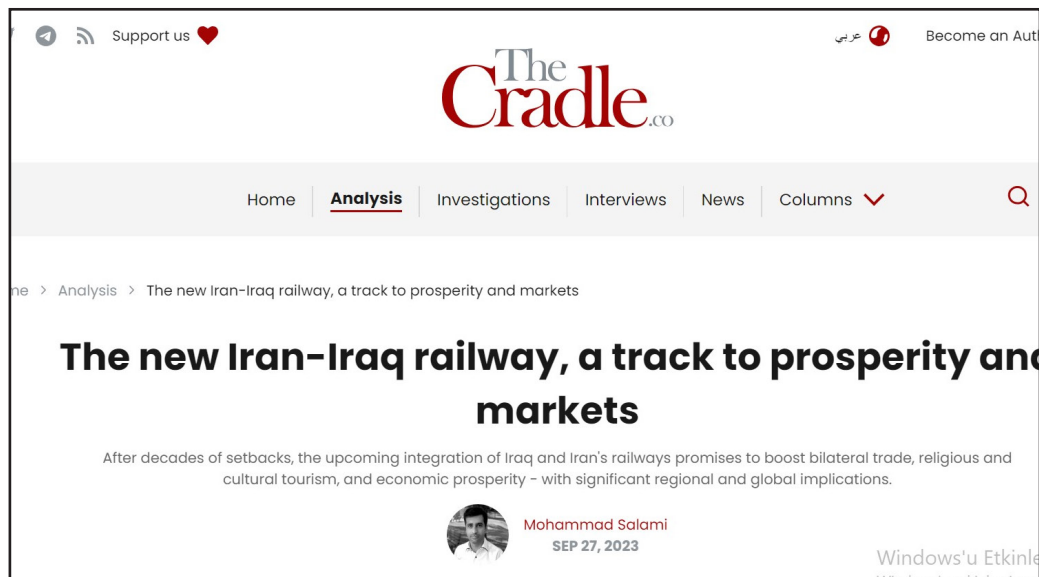
MODERN DIPLOMACY

<https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2023/09/29/all-aboard-iraq-plans-to-steam-into-a-new-future/>

A screenshot of the Modern Diplomacy website showing the article "All aboard, Iraq plans to steam into a new future". The page features a dark red header with the site's name and navigation menu. The article title is prominently displayed, along with the author's name, James Watt, and the publication date. A large image of a man in a suit sitting at a desk with an Iraqi flag is featured. To the right, there is a "PUBLICATIONS" section with three book covers and their titles: "Putin's African Dream - part 2", "Humanity Amidst Insanity: Hope during and after the Indo-Pak Partition", and "Warriors after War. Indian and Pakistani Retired Military".

James Watt writes “few countries in the Middle East have suffered more from conflict and worked harder for its end than Iraq. Ravaged by war with Iran, the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein, the US-led invasion of 2003 and then the grim experience of Daesh, the Iraqi nation knows the true meaning of suffering and resilience.” At the end, he concludes that “Relations have been bedevilled for years by Turkish encroachment on Iraqi sovereign territory in pursuit of its fight against Kurdish separatists – a problem Baghdad has been working patiently to resolve. But creation of economic and communications infrastructure for the benefit of shared prosperity is a courageous and necessary step for both countries to take. Yes, there will be security concerns. Nothing can be taken for granted. But the long game has to be played, and the prize is immeasurable for a country that has suffered so much.”

The new Iran-Iraq railway, a track to prosperity and markets



Mohammad Salami



CRADLE

<https://new.thecradle.co/articles/the-new-iran-iraq-railway-a-track-to-prosperity-and-markets#>

Mohammad Salami, an Iranian analyst of the Middle Eastern issues, writes that “after decades of setbacks, the upcoming integration of Iraq and Iran’s railways promises to boost bilateral trade, religious and cultural tourism, and economic prosperity – with significant regional and global implications.” Mentioning that “upon its completion in two years, the Shalamcheh-Basra Railway will span 32 kilometers, include three stations, and a bridge connecting Iran with Iraq across the Shatt al-Arab – all constructed with Iran’s support”, at the end, he writes that “As the Shalamcheh-Basra Railway project advances, it serves as a poignant symbol of progress toward enhanced shared prosperity for, and a new level of connectivity between, Iraq and Iran. This often-overlooked region within West Asia is poised to leave an indelible mark on global trade and transportation in the years ahead, contributing to broader regional integration and ushering in a new era of economic and logistical cooperation.”

IRANIAN THINK TANKS AND AND MEDIA



The third sector of the Iraqi economy; The biggest supporter of Arbaeen

بخش سوم اقتصاد عراق؛ بزرگترین پشتیبان اربعین

۳ مهر ۱۴۰۲



Hadi Masoumi

سياق

MIRSAD THINK TANK

<https://syaaq.com/28722/%d8%a7%d9%82%d8%aa%d8%b5%d8%a7%d8%af-%d8%a7%d8%b1%d8%a8%d8%b9%db%8c%d9%86/>

In this article, Hadi Masoumi tries to compare the holding of the Arbaeen ceremony in Iraq with the holding of a number of religious ceremonies in Iran and show that the Arbaeen ceremony should be considered within the cultural and social structure of the Iraqi society and cannot be used as a model for religious ceremony in Iran. Referring to some of the mass religious gatherings in Iran, he writes: “According to the scope and size of a ceremony on the scale of Arbaeen, no other department except the third department [in society] is able to manage it. Centralized government management and private sector for-profit management are definitely not effective in Arbaeen ceremonies and similar ceremonies, and if it is to be modeled on Arbaeen on the anniversary of Imam Reza’s martyrdom in Mashhad [in Iran] or in the ten-kilometer party commemorating Ghadir Eid in Tehran [in Iran]”

New corridor; The historical desire of the Arabs to bypass Iran

Mohammad Mehdi Mazaheri

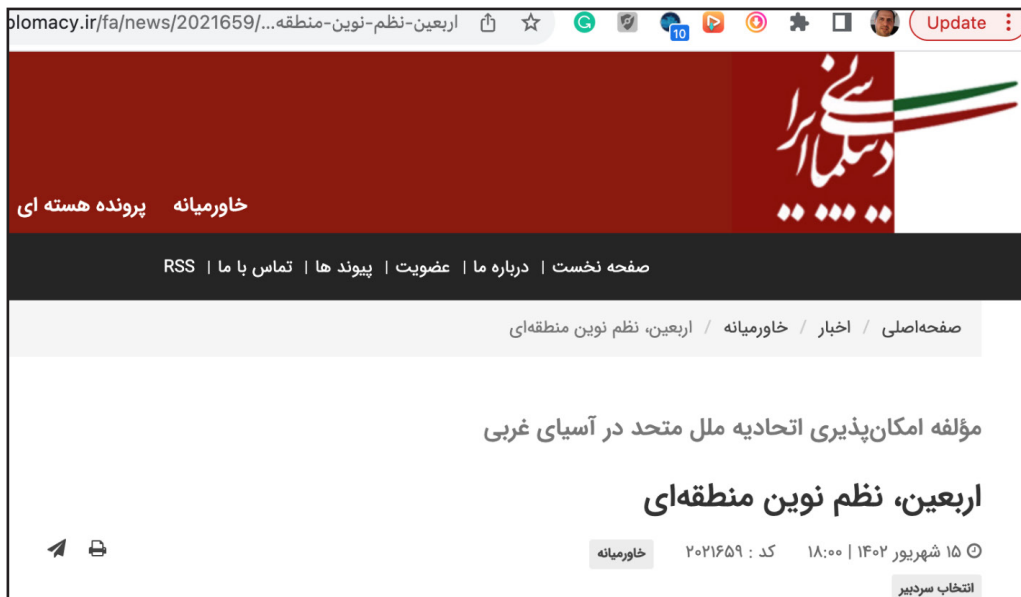


Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) of Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs

<https://www.ipis.ir/portal/newsview/730309>

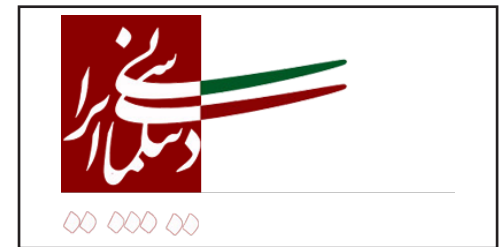
Mohammad Mehdi Mazaheri, writes that “it seems that the new corridor is a serious harm to the interests and national security of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and therefore it is necessary for the authorities of our country to take measures to deal with the negative effects caused by the formation of this corridor.” He concludes that “it seems that although the formation of the new agreement of the 20 member countries on the formation of the new transatlantic corridor has narrowed the geopolitical and geostrategic space for Iran to some extent, the doors of diplomacy are always open. One should not be indifferent to these developments and allow anti-Iranian plans to be implemented and operational without cost or trouble for the designing countries and their partners. It is necessary to consult with the member countries of this agreement one by one and warn them about the costs that their possible damage to Iran’s interests will participation in this initiative”

Feasibility component of United Nations in West Asia .. Arbaeen, the new regional order



Islam Zulqaderpour writes: “Some of the most important civilizational, civic and cultural capacities and components of Southwest Asia are sympathy, cooperation, alignment, political, social common language, etc., or an all-encompassing homogeneity in holding and commemorating Arbaeen Hosseini appear. Arbaeen has changed the regional and global order so much and established his own new order that he has made possible the vision of a union or community of the United Nations of Southwest Asia. Arbaeen walk, can be considered as an important component of the feasibility of the United Nations Community in Southwest Asia. The development of the United Nations Community in Southwest Asia can be placed in the foreign policy of the regional governments, especially the foreign policy of Iran, Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, etc., and it is possible to use Arbaeen to transit West Asia from the center of tension to the center of civilized and civil unity”

Islam Zulqaderpour



Iranian Diplomacy Website

<https://tinyurl.com/295akgn7>

A project that has many Iraqi opponents About the construction of the Basra - Shalamcheh railway project

Seyyed Reza Ghorabi Qazvini



Iranian Diplomacy Website

<https://tinyurl.com/yrfhxg97>

درباره کلنگ زنی پروژه راه آهن بصره - شلمچه

۱۳ شهریور ۱۴۰۲ | ۰۸:۰۰ | ۲۰۲۱۶۰۶ : کد : اخبار اصلی | اقتصاد و انرژی | خاورمیانه

سید رضا قزوینی در یادداشتی می نویسد: بزرگترین استدلال مخالفان این است که با این اتصال، رونق بندر عراق و اهمیت آنها به ویژه بندر فاو در ترانزیت کالا به سود بندر امام خمینی فروکش خواهد کرد چرا که هم هزینه ترانزیت کالا و هم زمان جابه جایی از طریق قطار و خط آهن شرایط به سود بندر عراق نخواهد بود و بندر امام خمینی جلودار تجارت دریایی منطقه می شود.

Seyyed Reza Qazvini writes that “the biggest argument of the opponents of this project is that with this connection, the prosperity of Iraqi ports and their importance, especially Faw port in the transit of goods, will decrease in favor of Imam Khomeini port, because both the cost of transiting goods and the time of movement through trains and railways, conditions will not be favorable for Iraqi ports, and Imam Khomeini port will become the leader of maritime trade in the region. The start of construction railway between the two countries by the Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammad Shia Al-Sudani, who was once one of the critics and opponents of this project, showed that the warnings of the critics of this about its negative effects on Iraqi sea trade were exaggerated”

Confusion in Baghdad .. The increase in the number of American soldiers in Iraq

سردرگمی در بغداد

افزایش چراغ خاموش تعداد نظامیان آمریکایی در عراق

۲۲ شهریور ۱۴۰۲ | ۱۰:۰۰ | کد : ۲۰۲۱۷۷۳ | اخبار اصلی | خاورمیانه

در حالی محمد شیاع السودانی، نخست وزیر عراق از عدم نیز بغداد به سربازان (آمریکایی) می گوید که در سوی دیگر برخی نمایندگان پارلمان این کشور (عراق) نسبت به افزایش معنادار و چراغ خاموش تعداد نظامیان آمریکایی در عراق هشدار می دهند. در همین باره یکی از نمایندگان پارلمان عراق با افشای تعداد «سوال برانگیز» نیروهای آمریکایی مستقر در عراق، قرارداد منعقد شده بین واشنگتن و بغداد را نیازمند «نظارت و پیگیری» دانست.



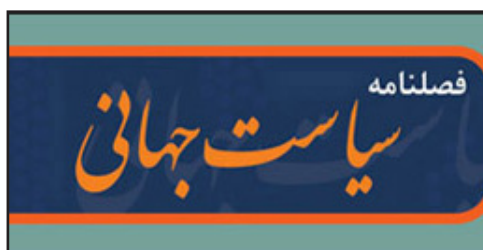

Iranian Diplomacy Website

<https://tinyurl.com/2xd57fc6>

The author of this article criticizes the increase in the number of American soldiers in Iraq. According to him, one of the representatives of the Iraqi Parliament, by revealing the “questionable” number of American troops stationed in Iraq, considered the agreement concluded between Washington and Baghdad to be “supervising”. In the end, the author points out this point: “Al-Sudani informed about the trip of the Iraqi delegation to America, during which negotiations were held with the American side, and in the negotiations, it was clearly announced to Washington that Iraq does not need combat forces. Of course, the Iraqi Prime Minister stated that we agreed with Washington to form a committee, and this joint Iraqi-American committee will hold its meeting in mid-September to determine the form of relations with the international coalition. Before this, the American command announced the implementation of 28 joint military operations inside Iraq within a month”.c

Consequences of the Sadr Paramilitary's Actions In the Position of Auxiliary Defense Forces

Amirhamed Azad



**World Politics: A Quarterly
Journal**

[https://interpolitics.guilan.ac.ir/
article_7053.html?lang=fa](https://interpolitics.guilan.ac.ir/article_7053.html?lang=fa)

The screenshot shows the journal's website interface. At the top, there are logos for 'فصلنامه سیاست جهانی' (World Politics), 'World Politics A Quarterly Journal', and 'ISIA'. Below the logos, there is a navigation menu with options like 'English', 'Home', 'About Us', 'Contact Us', 'Search', 'Home', 'About Us', 'Contact Us', 'Search'. The main content area displays the article title 'دعای گنیش شبه‌نظامیان صدر در جایگاه نیروهای دفاعی کمکی' and a brief abstract in Persian. The abstract discusses the formation of auxiliary defense forces in Iraq after the fall of the Baath regime, focusing on the Sadr movement's role. It mentions that these forces were formed as a result of the weakness of the Iraqi security forces and the rise of ISIS. The article analyzes the historical trend and the role of the Sadr movement in the formation of these forces.

The formation of auxiliary defense forces in Iraq took the form of a large number of militias affiliated with political parties and movements following the fall of the Baath regime. Because of the Iraqi security forces weakness in the fight against ISIS after 2014, these structures grew in a complex form. Militias affiliated with the Sadr movement have a special place among them in the interim. This article was based on the hypothesis that the threat to security in Iraq was not the cause of the rise of Sadr's militias, but rather served as a legitimizing factor for their presence and served as a cover for securing the political interests of the Sadr movement, while also widely undermining the authority of official government bodies and endangering Iraq's political stability. The historical trend analysis method was employed in this study.

Investigating geopolitical components affecting the economic relations of Islamic countries (case study of Iran and Iraq)

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بررسی مؤلفه‌های ژئوپلیتیکی مؤثر بر مناسبات اقتصادی
کشورهای اسلامی (مطالعه موردی ایران و عراق)

محسن جان پرور^۱ - زینب فاخر جعفر^۲ - ساجد بهرامی جاف^۳

چکیده

مناسبات ژئوپلیتیکی بین کشورها در طی دهه‌های اخیر با حرکت به سوی مسائل اقتصادی تبدیل به

شماره ۲ (۲۵)
سال ۹

Mohsen Janparwar, Zeynab Fakher Jafar,
Sajed Bahrami Jaf



Political Research Of The
Islamic World

https://journals.abru.ac.ir/article_707214_74fa13df4ba4edd95842d5d2820513ce.pdf

This article aims to understand the economic, geopolitical components affecting the relations of two prominent countries in the Islamic world, Iran and Iraq. The current research, with a descriptive-analytical approach and using library and survey findings, examines the most important factors affecting the geopolitical economic relations of the two Islamic countries of Iraq and Iran to reduce tensions and challenges and increase cooperation and coordination in the world. According to the elite-oriented nature of the research statistical community, the analysis method is the structural equation method with an emphasis on the partial least squares approach. The results of the research's field findings showed that the primary economy's geopolitical components in the fitting part of the structural model of the research in all 4 investigated indicators.

The balkanization policy of the Zionist regime in the Middle East (with an emphasis on the Kurds of Iraq)

Amirreza Moqoumi; Emad Hilalat; Mehdi Javadani Moghadam



Strategic Enviromental Studies Journal

https://journals.sndu.ac.ir/article_2489.html

English

فهرست نشریات تماس با ما

سیاست بالکانیزاسیون رژیم صهیونیستی در خاورمیانه (با تأکید بر کردهای عراق)

فصلنامه محیط شناسی راهبردی ج ۱، ایران
مقالات آماده انتشار، پذیرفته شده، انتشار آنلاین از تاریخ 23 مرداد 1402
نوع مقاله: مقاله پژوهشی
نویسندگان
امیررضا موقومی^۱؛ عماد هلالیات^۲؛ مهدی جاودانی مقدم^۳
^۱ دانشجوی دکتری مطالعات منطقه ای دانشگاه جامع امام حسین (ع)، تهران، ایران
^۲ دانشجوی دکتری روابط بین الملل، گروه روابط بین الملل، دانشکده حقوق، الهیات و علوم سیاسی، واحد علوم و تحقیقات، دانشگاه آزاد اسلامی،
^۳ استادیار گروه روابط بین الملل، دانشگاه امام صادق علیه السلام، تهران، ایران.

چکیده
یکی از راهبردهای رژیم صهیونیستی در خاورمیانه، بالکانیزه کردن این منطقه است. رژیم صهیونیستی که با چالش‌ها و معضلات امنیتی متعددی روبه‌رو است، بهترین اقدام برای فائق آمدن بر این مشکلات و تداوم بقا در محیط منطقه‌ای خاورمیانه را تضعیف کشورهای موجود در غرب آسیا و بر همین اساس، بالکانیزه کردن این منطقه می‌داند. پژوهش حاضر با روش توصیفی-تحلیلی در پی پاسخ به این سؤال است که اهمیت و جایگاه کردهای عراق در سیاست بالکانیزاسیون خاورمیانه توسط رژیم صهیونیستی چیست؟ یافته‌های تحقیق نشان می‌دهد که بالکانیزه کردن خاورمیانه یکی از سیاست‌های اصلی رژیم صهیونیست است. در قالب دکت، نه‌ها، مختلف آ، نمونه دکت، نه‌ها، مهم، نه‌ها، باشد که با قه‌ها، آ، نه‌ها، در، نه‌ها، اقلیت‌ها، قه، نه‌ها، مذهب، منطقه

همه نشریات
اقتصادی
امنیت ملی
آینده پژوهی
دانش راهبردی
دفاع مقدس
دفاعی ملی
راهبردی
فناوری
مدیریت راهبردی

One of the strategies of the Zionist regime in the Middle East is to balkanize this region. The current research, with a descriptive-analytical method, seeks to answer the question, what is the importance and position of Iraqi Kurds in the policy of balkanization of the Middle East by the Zionist regime? The findings of the research show that balkanization of the Middle East is one of the main policies of the Zionist regime in the form of its various doctrines, especially the peripheral doctrine, the sparks of which can be seen throughout the ethnic and religious minorities of the region... this group [Kurds] is considered the best option for the policy of balkanizing the Middle East by the Zionist regime... the Zionist regime has always supported the independence of the Kurds, especially the Kurds of Iraq, with the aim of changing the geopolitical borders of the Middle East and weakening the countries present in it.

TURKISH THINK TANKS AND MEDIA



Local Elections and Turkmen-Kurdish Relations in Iraq

Selçuk Bacalan , Adil Zineelabdin



Center For Middle Eastern Studies

<https://orsam.org.tr/tr/irakta-yerel-secimler-ve-turkmen-kurt-iliskileri/>



The authors write that “the geography where Turkmen live densely is considered a transition region between the regions subject to the control and management of the central government and the Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). This transition area allows Turkmen to communicate directly with the Kurds. Additionally, most cities with large Turkmen populations are considered ethnically mixed cities due to the presence of Kurds, Arabs and Turkmen. It can be said that the mutual visits between Turkmen and Kurdish leaders in the coming period may open a door for the formation of consensus between the two sides, ensuring cooperation and solving problems related to controversial areas... As a result, both communities have struggled throughout Iraq’s history to obtain their political and cultural rights. From this point of view, it is important to meet on a common ground in mixed ethnic regions, especially Kirkuk.”

Is the Iraq-Iran Security Agreement Sustainable?



According to the author, “the presence of Kurdish groups of Iranian origin in Iraq has been discussed for years. Although the groups in question define themselves as political parties, they have military forces affiliated with the political party and have the capacity to carry out actions in Iran by using the security weakness on the Iraq–Iran border, which attracts Iran’s reaction... It seems that the agreement, which solves a security problem for Iran, also means pacifying the justification for intervention in Iraq’s territory. However, considering that Iran is targeting Iraq not only on the grounds of these groups, but also on the grounds that Israeli intelligence is organized in the north of Iraq, it is useful to keep in mind the fact that the agreement cannot make foreign military interventions impossible for the Baghdad and Erbil governments in the future”.

Yusuf Can Ayaz



Foundation for Political,
Economic, and Social Research

<https://orsam.org.tr/tr/irak-iran-guvenlik-anlasmasi-surdurulebilir-mi/>

Acceleration in Turkey-Iraq Relations: Iraq Visits of Hakan Fidan, Ömer Bolat and Veysel Eroğlu

Sercan Caliskan



Center For Middle Eastern Studies

<https://orsam.org.tr/tr/turkiye-irak-iliskilerinde-ivme-hakan-fidan-omer-bolat-ve-veysel-eroglu-nun-irak-ziyaretleri-/>



According to the author, “Hakan Fidan’s visit to Iraq was followed by the visits of Minister of Trade Ömer Bolat and Presidential Special Representative for Iraq Veysel Eroğlu. The main issues the two men discussed during their visits consist of two non-security agenda items that Fidan emphasized in Iraq: Economic relations and the water issue. The fight against terrorism, the water issue and the problems faced by Kirkuk and the Turkmens in Iraq, which have come to the fore again in recent days, are the main ones. Therefore, as in previous periods, many agenda items in bilateral relations will need to be followed simultaneously in the new period. However, Hakan Fidan’s visit and the subsequent diplomacy process show that the Development Road Project and its benefits will be considered with a different strategic importance among the agenda items in question.”

Irak'ta Kalkınma Yolu Projesi Adımları



According to the author, “Tehran, which acts to increase the importance of Iranian ports, will not want its Fav Port to rise geostrategically. At the same time, it will not want Iraq to come to the fore and become stronger in regional politics. Therefore, it can be stated that, in general, Iran is not satisfied with the project economically and politically. Possible terrorist attacks, domestic instability and conflicts may have a negative impact on investments or disrupt transportation. At the same time, structural problems, corruption and disputes within Iraq may also hinder or restrict the process. At the same time, the operation of the port may cause regional competition and difficulties as it will reduce the strategic importance of other ports in the region. In this respect, it should be taken into account that there are some risks regarding the continuity of the project and the stability of the investments.”

Şeyma Kızılay



Center For Middle Eastern
Studies

<https://orsam.org.tr/tr/irakta-kalkinma-yolu-projesi-adimlari/>

How do Kirkuk events affect the Sudanese government?

Selçuk Bacalan

Yeni Şafak

YENİ ŞAFAK

<https://www.yenisafak.com/dusunce-gunlugu/kerkuk-olaylari-sudani-hukümetini-nasil-etkiler-4559288>



The author believes that “the latest events in Kirkuk may be the biggest test the Sudanese government has faced since its founding. The article on the return of Kurdish political parties to disputed areas in the government program, which was prepared for the purposes of the political blocs that make up the Sudanese government, is seen as one of the major obstacles to the continuation of the government. If this article is not implemented, it is possible that the Kurdish blocs in the State Governing Coalition will withdraw from the coalition. With Sudani taking office, Iraq experienced at least partial stability in security and economic terms, especially in terms of civil servant appointments, infrastructure and superstructure. In order not to overshadow the success of the Sudanese government, it is possible to prevent the events in Kirkuk by giving instructions to continue using the headquarters in question by the Kirkuk Joint Operations Command due to its ownership.”

‘Kuşak ve Yol’un istikrarı bu projeye bağlı



Feyzullah Tuna Aygün asserts that “the successful completion of the Fav Grand Port and Development Canal project will require cooperation and coordination between Turkey and Iraq and other regional and global actors. Addressing potential challenges and risks, such as financial sustainability, demonstrations, and political tensions, will require sustained efforts and collaboration among various stakeholders. Including other actors in the project will help eliminate this risk. Therefore, regional actors need to work together to realize the potential benefits of this project and ensure its success. Despite these challenges, the potential benefits of the project are significant. The Fav Major Port and Development Canal has the potential to transform the region’s economic landscape and provide new opportunities for trade and investment. Attracting more trade and creating more jobs would help Iraq’s reconstruction efforts. By working together against challenges and risks, Turkey and Iraq can pave the way for a brighter future for both countries and the region.”

Feyzullah Tuna Aygün



AÇIK GÖRÜŞ

<https://www.star.com.tr/acik-gorus/kusak-ve-yolun-istikrari-bu-projeye-bagli-haber-1813907/>

PUK and terrorist organization PKK alliance in Arbat

Bilgay Duman



Anadolu Agency

<https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/analiz/gorus-arbatta-kyb-ve-teror-orgutu-pkk-ittifaki/3002107>



According to the author, “it is possible to say that if PUK continues this attitude, Turkey may continue to increase the harshness of its warning tone. As a matter of fact, the murder of Mazlum Öztürk, codenamed “Berxwedan Çiyager”, a PKK/KCK member, in the Sulaymaniyah countryside, in operation carried out by MİT, is an indication that Turkey will continue to implement its determined hard power policy... Bafil Talabani will purge the people with opposing views within the party, and PUK may go to a more hawkish administration. It can be said that the developments in Sulaymaniyah not only affected the internal politics of the KRG, but also can evolve Turkey-Iraq, Turkey-KRG and Turkey-PUK relations into a new era. Based on this, if PUK continues its policy of supporting the PKK, it seems likely that Turkey will toughen the warning dosage and method.”

Türkiye-Iraq Development Road Project: Enhancing regional connectivity, trade



AA TÜRKİYE WORLD ECONOMY POLITICS ENERGY SPORTS INFOGRAPHICS

WORLD, MIDDLE EAST

Türkiye-Iraq Development Road Project: Enhancing regional connectivity, trade

Ambitious infrastructure initiative aims to link Asia, Europe, Gulf regions, garnering support from Türkiye, key stakeholders

Mehmet Alaca, Haydar Karaalp | 16.09.2023 - Update : 17.09.2023

Mehmet Alaca, Haydar Karaalp



Anadolu Agency

The authors believe that “ambitious infrastructure initiative aims to link Asia, Europe, Gulf regions, garnering support from Türkiye, key stakeholders. But the project, which aims to establish a new Silk Road between Türkiye and Iraq, has a huge cost that the Iraqi government cannot undertake alone. Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said Sept. 13 that Iraq, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Türkiye and Qatar were in intensive negotiations regarding the Development Road Project. Fidan noted the project came to the agenda during meetings President Erdogan attended at the G20 Summit, especially in a meeting with UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and said they agreed on the rapid implementation of the project. Songul Cabuk, former member of the Iraqi parliament and a businesswoman, said Iraq is at the center of the Silk Road route due to its location.”

‘Corridors’ of global politics

Bilgay Duman



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<https://orsam.org.tr/tr/kuresel-siyasetin-koridorlari/>

Küresel Siyasetin “Koridorları”



According to the author, “it is noteworthy that President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan emphasized the Belt and Road Initiative in his statement regarding the IMEC project. In this sense, it would not be wrong to say that Erdoğan gave a realistic message. Because Erdoğan, who said “There is no corridor without Turkey”, seems to have highlighted the Development Road Project initiated by Turkey and Iraq. Stating that Qatar and the UAE also have support in this regard, Erdoğan said that he gave instructions to start working on the project within 60 days, almost saying, “Do not pursue adventure while there is a ready project.” In this sense, even though it is not directly included in the corridor route of the Belt and Road Initiative or the IMEC project, the Development Road Project can become an option for both poles regarding infrastructure possibilities and applicability.”

Regional Studies Centers

Pro-Iran Armed Groups and the US Troop Rotation in Iraq

Akeel Abbas



The Emirates Policy Center

<https://www.epc.ae/ar/details/brief/tadwir-alquat-al-amrikiya-fi-aleiraq-wadalalat-mawaqif-alfasayil-almusalaha-minh>



The researcher in this paper examines recent developments related to the rotation of American forces in Iraq, exploring the issue from three distinct perspectives:

- 1. New Rotation Mechanism:** The first perspective delves into the novel approach used in the recent rotation of American forces in Iraq. Unlike previous rotations conducted primarily by air, the recent one appears to serve as a deliberate test of the commitment of Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani's government not to target American convoys. Additionally, it assesses the extent to which Shiite armed factions are adhering to this commitment.
- 2. Armed Factions' Stance on American Presence:** The second perspective focuses on the positions held by various armed factions regarding the presence of American forces in Iraq. The researcher observes that, up to this point, these factions have collectively agreed to honor the commitments made by Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani's government to Washington. However, the strength of this commitment varies among different factions, influenced by factors such as their individual interests, their relationship with

Pro-Iran Armed Groups and the US Troop Rotation in Iraq

the government, their ideological affiliations, and their political and military investments.

3. Government's Dilemma in Balancing U.S. and Iranian Relations: The third perspective delves into the challenges faced by Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani's government in managing its relationships with the United States and Iran. The researcher highlights the intricate interplay between the situations in Iraq and Syria concerning Iran and its loyal factions. This complex dynamic complicates the government's efforts to maintain a truce with Washington while avoiding actions that could endanger American forces or interests within Iraq.

These three perspectives collectively provide a comprehensive view of the evolving situation surrounding the rotation of American forces in Iraq, emphasizing the intricate relationships between the Iraqi government, armed factions, the United States, and Iran.



Emirates Policy Center

<https://www.epc.ae/ar/details/brief/tadwir-alquat-al-amrikiya-fi-aleiraq-wadalalat-mawaqif-alfasayil-almusalaha-minh>

Iraqi-Turkish Relations: Addressing Complex Challenges

Iraqi Studies Unit



THE EMIRATES POLICY CENTER

<https://www.epc.ae/ar/details/featured/alalaqat-aleiraqia-alturkia-muajahat-almilaffat-alshayika>

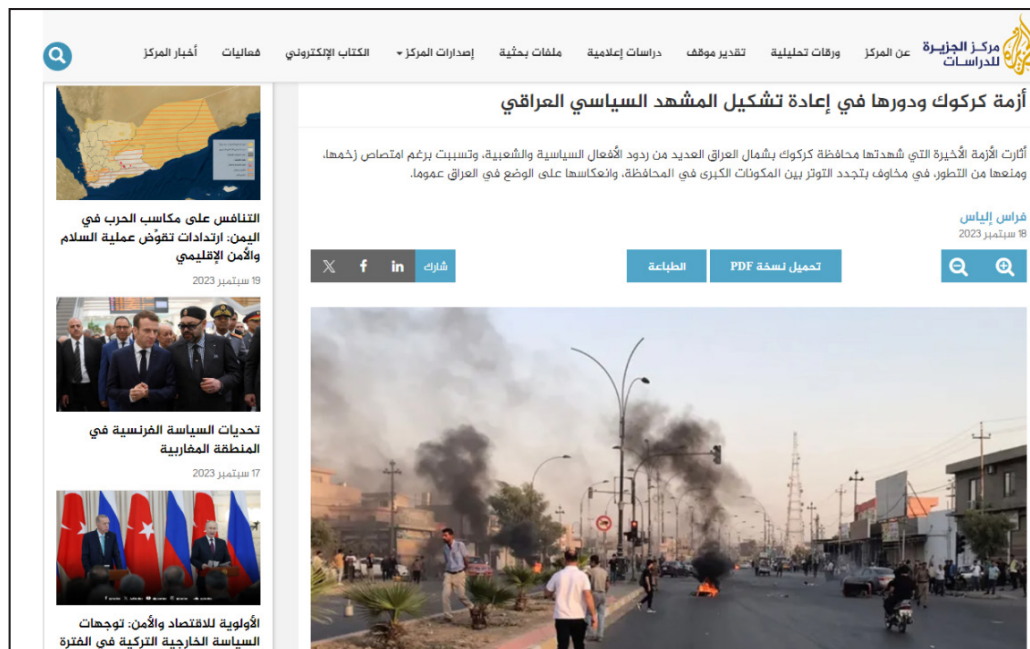


The paper discusses a recent series of high-level visits between Turkish and Iraqi officials and how these visits have contributed to strengthening relations between the two countries while addressing outstanding issues. These visits have acted as a catalyst for improving Iraqi-Turkish relations, which had been tense, and have outlined a basic agenda for cooperation between the two nations. There are four main issues currently affecting Iraqi-Turkish relations:

1. **Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) File:** This pertains to Turkish military actions against the PKK in Iraqi territory.
2. **Oil Export File:** This involves the export of oil through the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline.
3. **Water File:** This likely concerns the sharing and management of water resources, a critical issue in the region.
4. **Development Road Project File:** This relates to joint development projects or initiatives between the two countries.

The paper suggests that there is a significant opportunity to reset Turkish-Iraqi relations by finding solutions to these sensitive issues. Addressing these matters positively may have a favorable impact on other unresolved matters, ultimately leading to the normalization of relations between the two nations.

The Kirkuk crisis and its role in reshaping the Iraqi political scene



Firas Elias



Al Jazeera Center for Studies

both domestic and international fronts. It divides the Kirkuk crisis into several layers, each contributing to its complexity:

1. **Historical Context and Nature of the Crisis:** This section provides background information, explaining the historical context of the Kirkuk crisis and its extent and nature.
2. **Geoeconomic Significance of Kirkuk:** The paper examines the geoeconomic status of Kirkuk and its significance to both the federal government and the Kurdistan Region, emphasizing the economic factors at play.

<https://studies.aljazeera.net/ar/article/5743>

The Kirkuk crisis and its role in reshaping the Iraqi political scene

3. **Political and Electoral Conditions:** This layer explores the political and electoral dynamics within the unstable Kirkuk Governorate, shedding light on the internal political challenges that have contributed to the crisis.

4. **Regional Overlap:** The paper discusses the regional dimension of the Kirkuk crisis, including the involvement and statements of neighboring countries, with a particular focus on Turkey and Iran.

The paper underscores that the Kirkuk crisis has far-reaching implications, both domestically and internationally. These ramifications span political and economic domains, regional stability, international relations, the relationship between the region and the central government, and interactions among various societal and political forces within the governorate. It highlights the multifaceted nature of the crisis and its potential to impact a wide array of interconnected issues and actors.