

Iraq – Its People and Culture

The war and the Long-Term U.S. Interests in the Middle East

- Is it Liberation or Occupation?
- Who destroyed the infrastructure in Iraq?
- Are we doing anything good for the Iraqis?
- What is the outcome of this war?

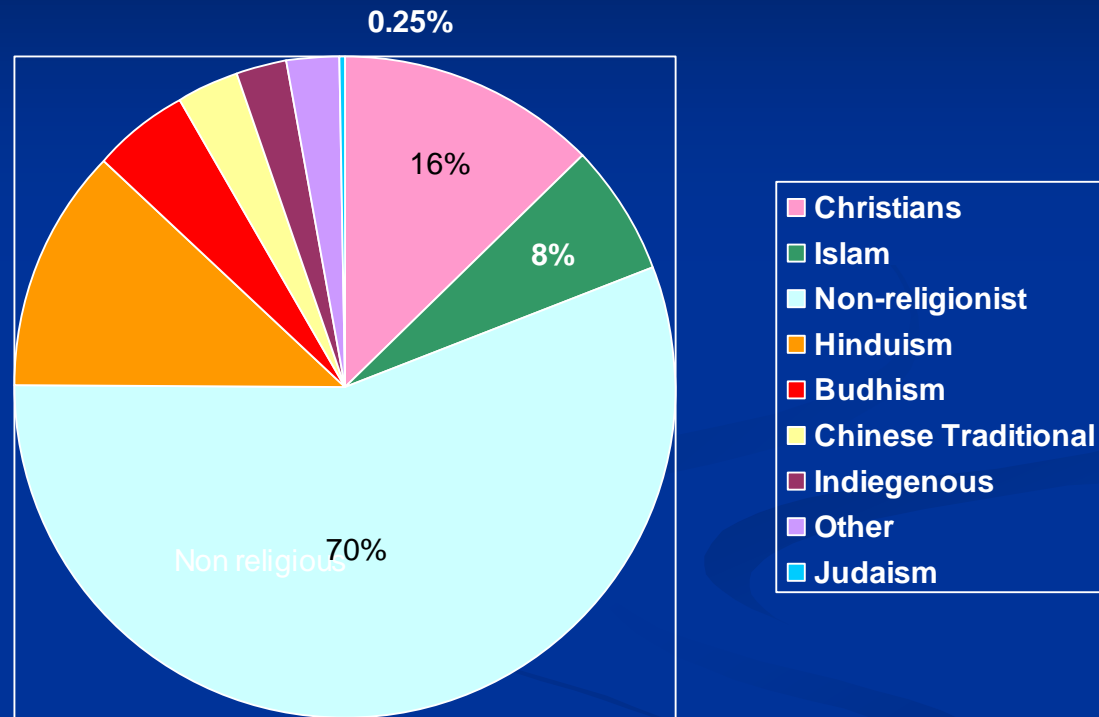
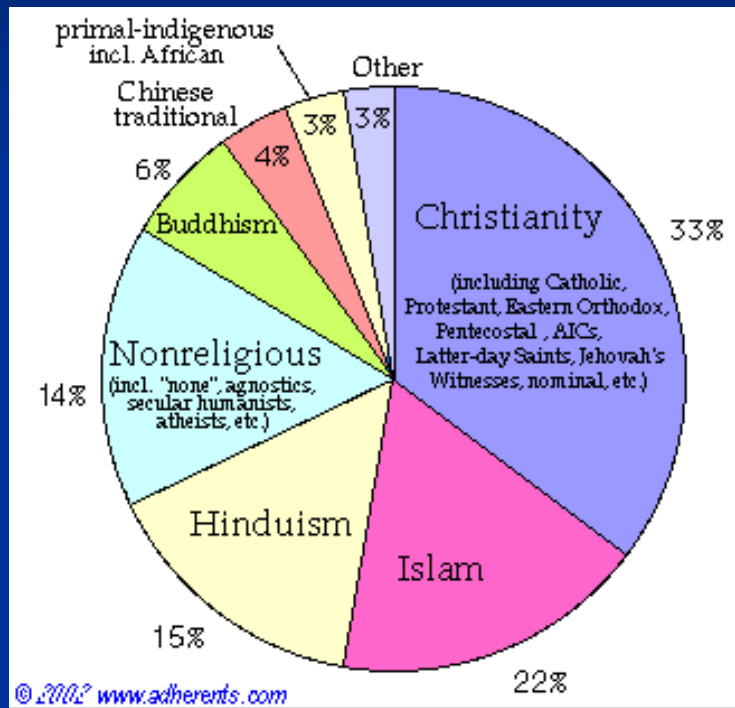
December 13 – The Furor Captured



Cities of Iraq



World Religions & non-Religions



In the beginning - The Big Bang

- *Do the unbelievers not realize that the heavens and the earth used to be one solid mass that we exploded into existence? And from water we made all living things. Would they believe? **The Qur'an 21:30***
- *The heavens, We have built with power and, We are expanding it. **The Qur'an 51: 47***

Islam is not a new religion

- It is, in essence, the same message and guidance which God revealed to all His previous messengers:
- *"Say: We believe in Allah and that which was revealed to us, and that which was revealed to Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the tribes and that which was given to Moses and Jesus and to the Prophets from their Lord; We make no distinction between any of them, and to Him we submit". [Qur'an 3:83]*

Concept of Worship

- *"It is not righteousness that you turn your faces to the East or West, but righteous is he who believes in Allah and the Last Day and the Angels and the Scripture and the Prophets; and gives his wealth for love of Him to kinsfolk and to orphans and the needy and the wayfarer and to those who ask, and sets slaves free; and observes proper worship and pays the Zakah. And those who keep their treaty when they make one, and the patient in tribulation and adversity and time of stress; such are those who are sincere. Such are the Godfearing". [Qur'an 2:177]*

Human Rights

- Islam protects all noble values and human rights. Freedom, equality, justice, and the right to life, liberty, and security of person are of prime concern in Islamic law.

"Whosoever kills a human being for other than manslaughter or corruption (mischief) in the earth, it shall be as if he had killed all mankind, and whosoever saves the life of one, it shall be as if he had saved the life of all mankind..." [Qur'an 5:32]

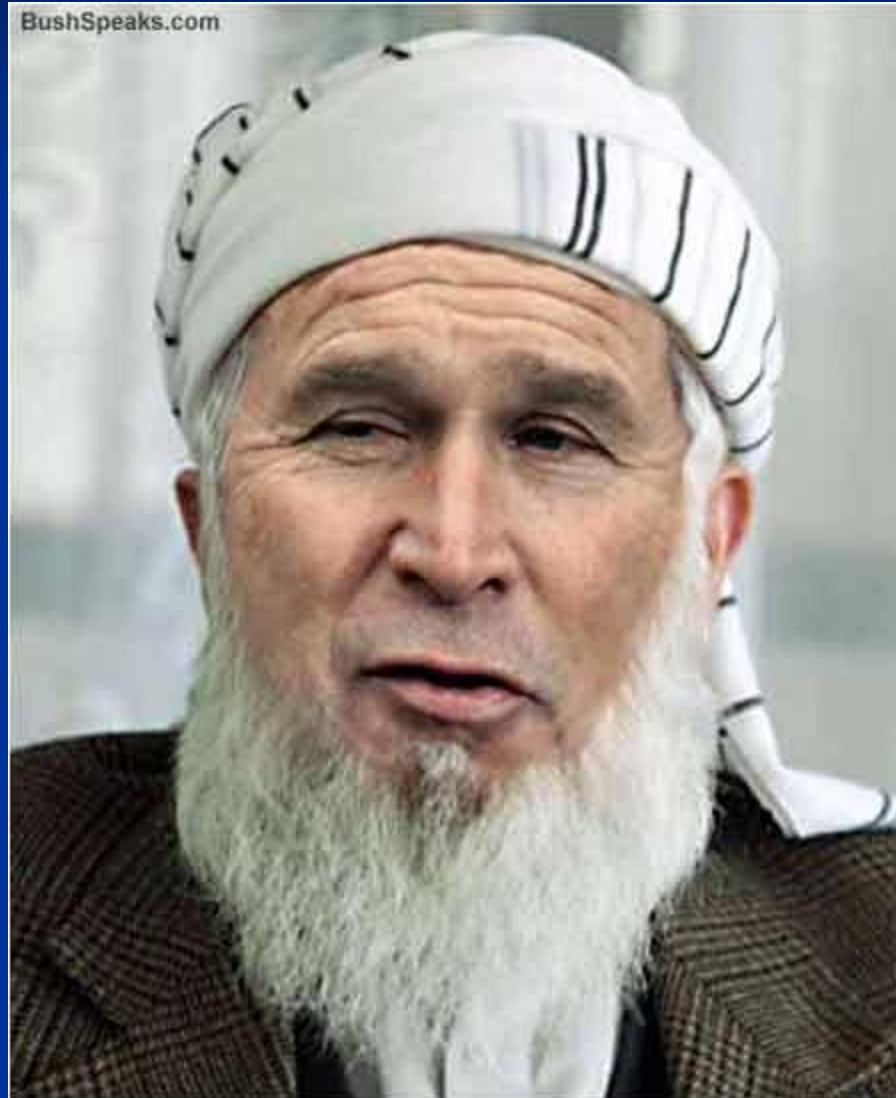
- Islam places great emphasis on social justice. It opposes all those who exploit, oppress and deal unjustly with people.

"O ye who believe: Be steadfast witnesses for Allah in equity and let not hatred of any people seduce you that you deal not justly. Be just; that is nearer to piety". [Qur'an 5:8]

Some Misconceptions About Islam

- It is unfortunate that some teachings of Islam have been distorted and misrepresented in the West and in the communist world.
- The main distortions relate to the status of women, marriage and divorce, **jihad** or so-called "**holy war**", the authenticity of the Prophethood of Muhammad (peace be upon him), and the distinction between the Qur'an and the Hadith.

Emir of Arabia - 2004



Occupation and Siege of Iraq



Iraq, Palestine and Afghanistan

What does Jimmy Carter have to say about all this?



Rachel Corrie in Palestine – May 16



Calling for Jihad



Jihad is not Holy War

■ (2:190)

Fight in the cause of God those who fight you, but do not transgress limits; for God loveth not transgressors.

■ (2:191)

And slay them wherever ye catch them, and turn them out from where they have Turned you out; for tumult and oppression are worse than slaughter; but fight them not at the Sacred Mosque, unless they (first) fight you there; but if they fight you, slay them. Such is the reward of those who suppress faith.

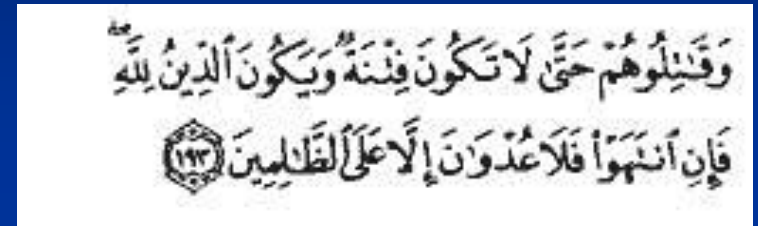
وَقَاتِلُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ الَّذِينَ يُقَاتِلُونَكُمْ
وَلَا تَعْتَدُوا ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ
الْمُعْتَدِينَ ﴿١٩٠﴾

وَأَقْتُلُوهُمْ حَيْثُ ثَفَفْتُمُوهُمْ وَأَخْرِجُوهُمْ مِنْ حَيْثُ
أَخْرَجُوكُمْ وَالْفِتْنَةُ أَشَدُّ مِنَ الْقَتْلِ ۗ وَلَا تُقَاتِلُوهُمْ عِنْدَ
الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ حَتَّى يُقَاتِلُوكُمْ فِيهِ
فَإِنْ قَاتَلُوكُمْ فَاقْتُلُوهُمْ كَذَلِكَ جَزَاءُ الْكٰفِرِينَ ﴿١٩١﴾

Fighting for Justice & Freedom

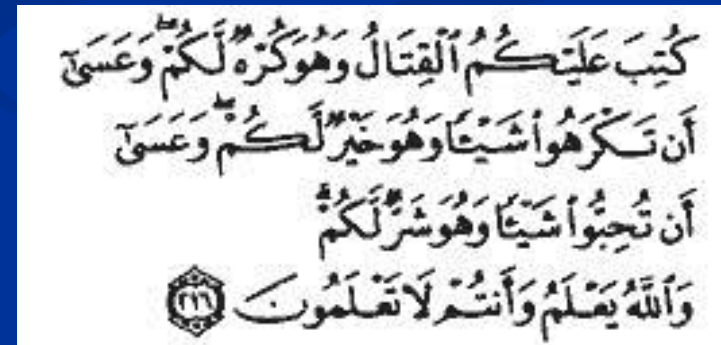
■ (2:193)

And fight them on until there is no more Tumult or oppression, and there prevail justice and faith in God; but if they cease, Let there be no hostility except to those who practise oppression.



■ (2:216)

Fighting is prescribed for you, and ye dislike it. But it is possible that ye dislike a thing which is good for you, and that ye love a thing which is bad for you. But God knoweth, and ye know not.



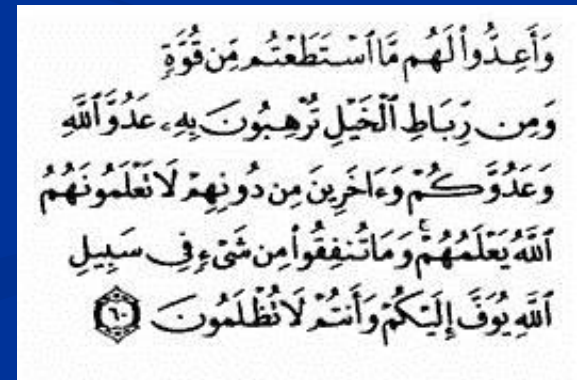
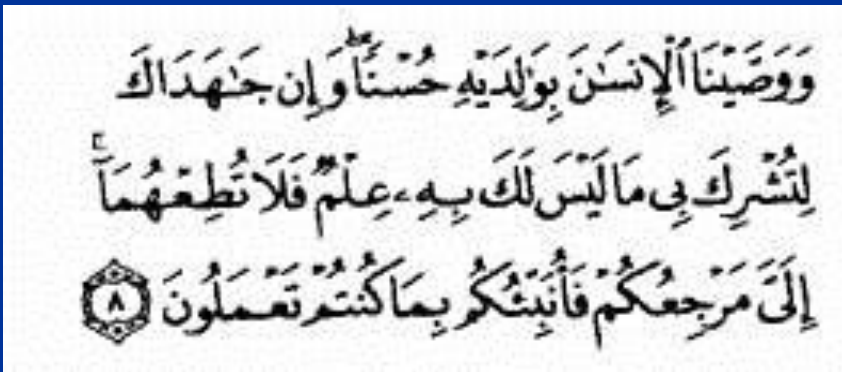
Jihad is Persuasion & Waging Peace

■ (29:8)

We have enjoined on man kindness to parents: but if they (either of them) strive (to force) thee to join with Me (in worship) anything of which thou hast no knowledge, obey them not. Ye have (all) to return to me, and I will tell you (the truth) of all that ye did.

■ (8:60)

Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war, to strike terror into (the hearts of) the enemies, of God and your enemies, and others besides, whom ye may not know, but whom God doth know. Whatever ye shall spend in the cause of God, shall be repaid unto you, and ye shall not be treated unjustly.



Resistance to Occupation

- The Islamic Resistance + Victory = Freedom
- Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness?
- Life, Liberty and Justice in Islam
- Examples from the Bible:
 - Masada
 - Christians of the Catacombs in Rome

Ethnic People and Religions of the Middle East

**Less than 15% of Muslims are Semites. Not all Arabs are Muslims. Not all Muslims are Arabs*

***Less than 15% of Jews are Semites & less than 60% of Arabs are Semites*

Note: Arab is a tribe (and language) but Jew is a religion. Do not confuse race with religion!

Race	Tribe (and Language)	Religion	Sects of Islam
Semite	Aramaic Assyrian Hebrew Arab	Islam* Christianity Judaism** Sabeian	Sunni Shia
Non-Semite	Kurd Persian Turkoman Other	Islam* Christianity Judaism** Sabeian	Sunni Shia

Ethnic and Religious Groups

- Is there any basis for trust between Shia, Sunni, and Kurd?
- Christian and Jewish Sects
- Arabs, Turkomans, And Persians
- The IndoEuropeans
- Crusaders
- Chechens, Sircasians and Armenians
- Others

Ansar el-Islam

Iraqi-Kurd Mullah Krekar

Oslo - Norway



Culture of the Semitic People

- *Culture:* literature, arts and science, and the heritage of the Semitic People
 1. From Sumer to 535 BC
 2. Semites fell under foreign Rule for 1150 years – from 535 BC to 610 AD – Beginning with Cyrus the Great, then Alexander the Great - finally the Romans
 3. After 610 AD
 4. Semites came under Ottoman Turkish (Muslims but non-Semites) Control from 1453 AD to WWI

Al-Aadhamiya Mosque - Baghdad



Iraq

The Birth Place of civilization

- Twelve-thousand years ago, they invented irrigated farming.
- They invented the first Wheel and the art of writing
- They figured out how to tell time.
- They founded modern mathematics.
- In the Code of Hammurabi, they invented the first legal system that protects the weak, the widow and the orphan.
- Five-thousand years ago, they had philosophers who attempted to list every known thing in the world.

Iraq – the Birth Place of civilization

- Abraham, the father of Israel, the Christian faith and Islam was from Iraq.
- Beginning around 800 A.D., the Iraqis founded universities that imported teachers from throughout the civilized world to teach medicine, mathematics, philosophy, theology, literature and poetry.
- The first school for astronomers was established by Iraqis.
- The Arabs have a saying about the Iraqis' quest for knowledge and books, "Egyptians write them, Lebanese print them, and the Iraqis read them."

Arabic words in the English Language

Many English words that begin with “Al” has a good chance of being Arabic in origin – here are some examples

- Alchemy
- Alkaline
- Alcohol
- Algebra
- Algorithm
- Alforja
- Algol
- Alidade
- Almagest – from Arabic Al-Majusti (which Arabs took from the Greek Megistos)
- Magazine – From Arabic “makhazin” (storehouse for goods, ammunition or knowledge)
- Zero
- Zenith
- Average
- Assassin

The Arab World Since WWI and its relationship to the West

- – Focus on Iraq

Lively Terror Against Iraqis

- "I am strongly in favor of using poisoned gas against uncivilized tribes. The moral effect should be good...and it would spread a lively terror.... “

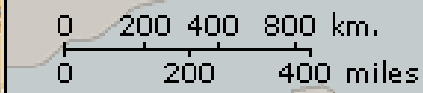
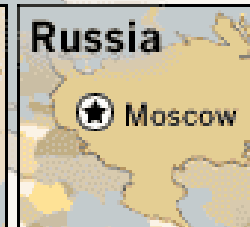
----- *Winston Churchill - commenting on the British use of poison gas against the Iraqis after World War I (ca. 1920)*

WWI Secret Agreements

Major sources of current problems in the Middle East

- Sykes-Picot Agreement
- Balfour Declaration
- British Col. Percy Cox

Middle East After WWI



Al-Kut and Kuwait



Iraq after Col. Percy Cox



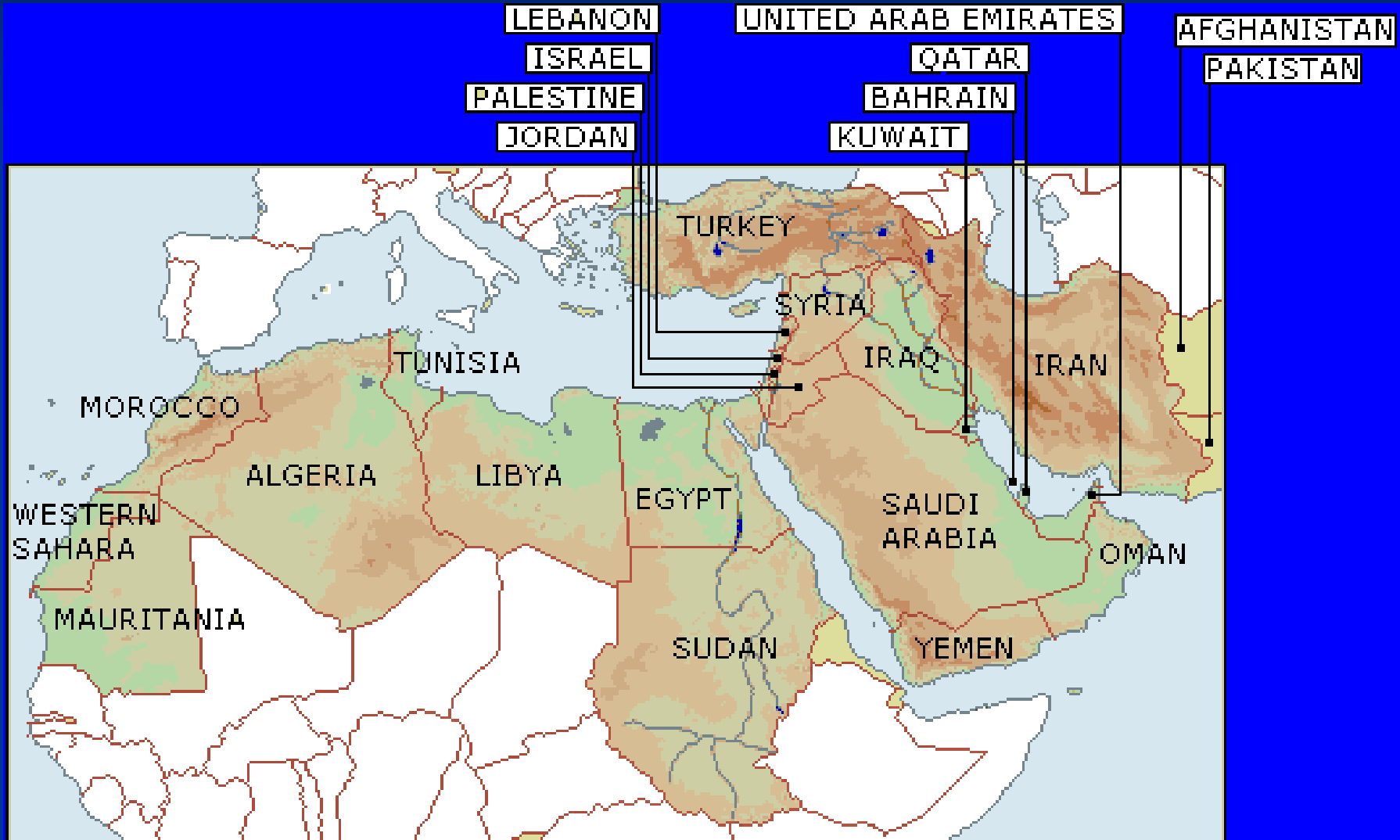
Iraq's Access to the Sea

■ Sea Ports



The Middle East

■ Arab Borders



Total Borders*

- Arab States 53,678 KM
- United States 12,247 KM
- *Excluding shorelines

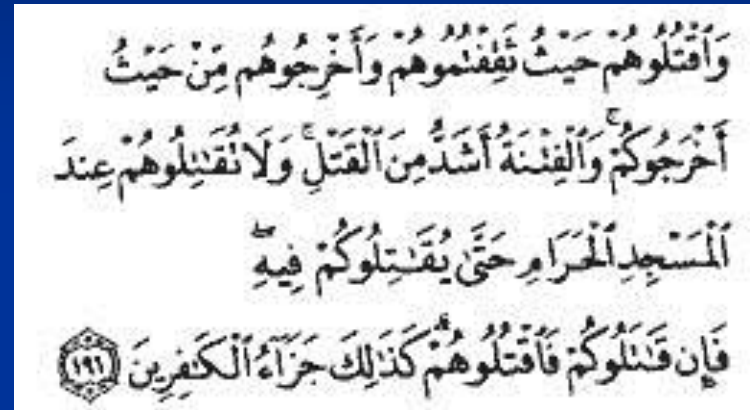
Ethnic and religious populations



Qur'an 2-191

- And slay them wherever ye catch them, and turn them out from where they have Turned you out; for tumult and oppression are worse than slaughter; but fight them not at the Sacred Mosque, unless they (first) fight you there; but if they fight you, slay them. Such is the reward of those who suppress faith.

- Verse 2-191



March 2003 **Nineveh (Mosul), Iraq**



King Faisal II of Iraq – London 1953



الملكة اليزابيث الثانية ملكة بريطانيا وعن يسارها الملك فيصل ملك العراق
وعن يمينها الأمير عبدالله الوصي على العرش

Faisal – Ibn Shereef of Mecca



Faisal I – Iraq 1926

www.iraqipages.com



(Muhammad as-Sadr) greeting Faisal I in 1926. The king and his aides (from left to right, Nuri as-Sa'idi, Jamal al-Midfai, and Abd-ul-Husain Chalabi) are wearing the *sidarah*, the characteristic headdress of the official and professional strata in the first two decades of the monarchy.

Kings of Iraq – Ghazi & Faisal II

www.iraqipages.com



King Ghazi



الملك فيصل الثاني في مقبلة الخاضع بالقتل العنكي

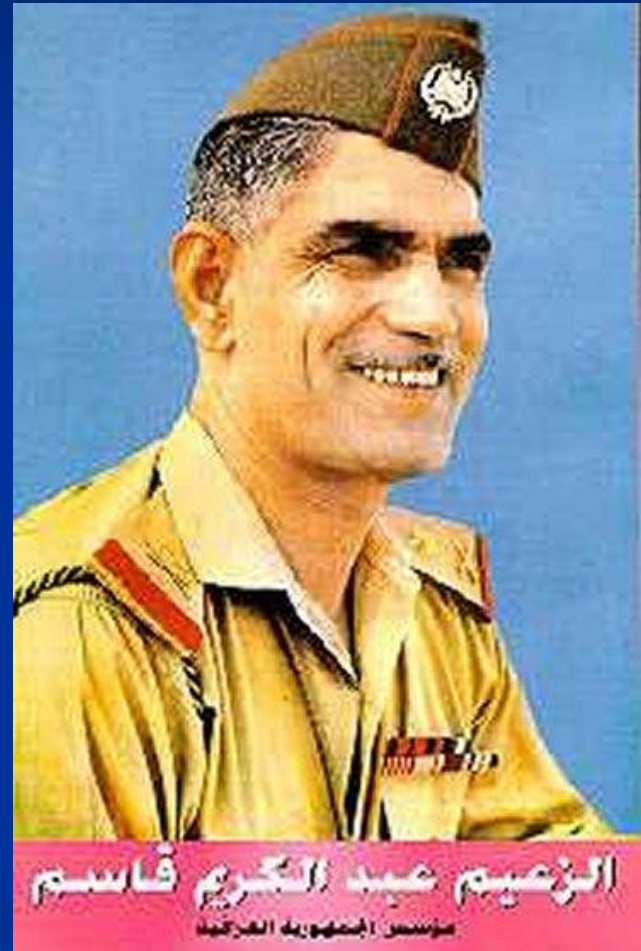
Al-Zuhur Palace – Baghdad 1958



Nuri Said Pasha and Gen. Qasim



Nuri Al-Sai'd



القاسم عبد الكريم قاسم
مؤسس الجمهورية العراقية

Fallouja – 1940s

Peasant at work – Felloujah



A WOMAN SELLING BREAD

بائعة الخبز

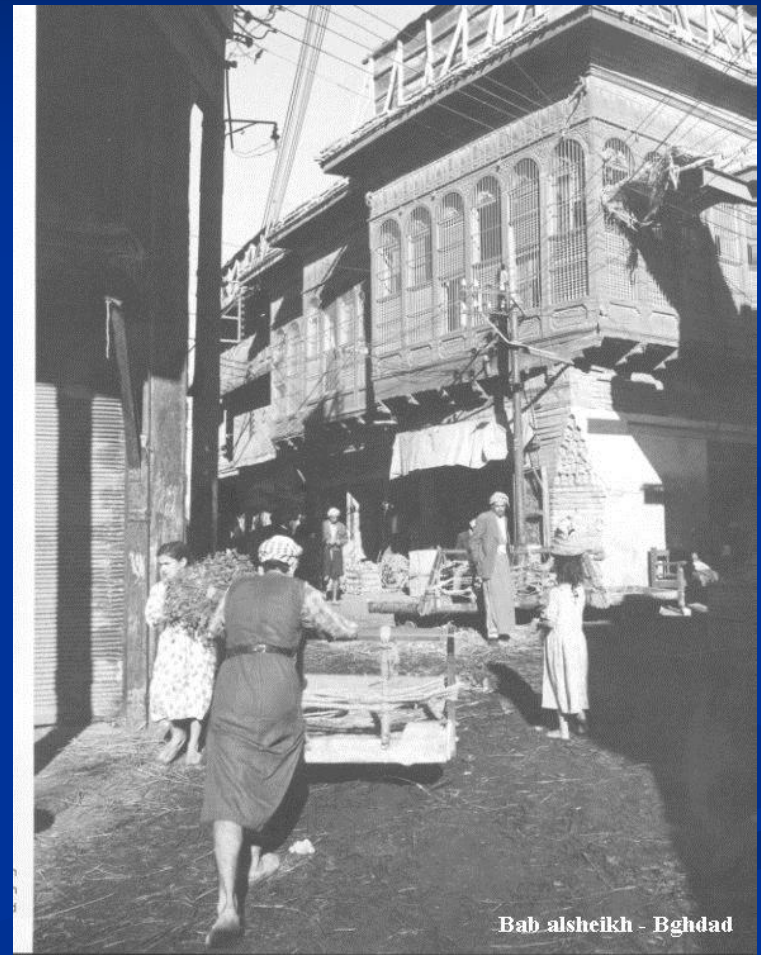
Falluja – January 13, 2004



Baghdad on Tigris

1958

1930s





The War

Was it really about liberating the Iraqi people?

Iraq since 1968

- The rise of Saddam Hussein & El-Baath Party
- Iran- Iraq War
- The Gulf war
- Thirteen years of sanctions
- The Present War and aftermath

Twelve days after the meeting, the United States' decision that Iraq could not lose the Iran-Iraq War—as decided in the 1982 National Security Decision Directive—came to light in the Washington Post. Three months later, in late March 1984, Rumsfeld was back in Baghdad for another meeting with Aziz. The meeting took place the same day the UN reported that **Iraq was using chemical weapons in its war on Iran**.

- Rumsfeld with Saddam – December 20, 1983, and again in March 1984





Head of Biological Science

- Professor Huda Salih Ammash (5 of Hearts)



City of Hilla – April 2003



AFP PHOTO/RAMZI HAIDAR

An Iraqi man holds his injured child at a hospital in the farming town of Hilla in the southern province of Babylon 02 April 2003. The child is among 310 people who were wounded in US-British bombing yesterday of a residential area near Hilla, 80kms south of Baghdad. Thirty-three civilians

Baghdad National Museum



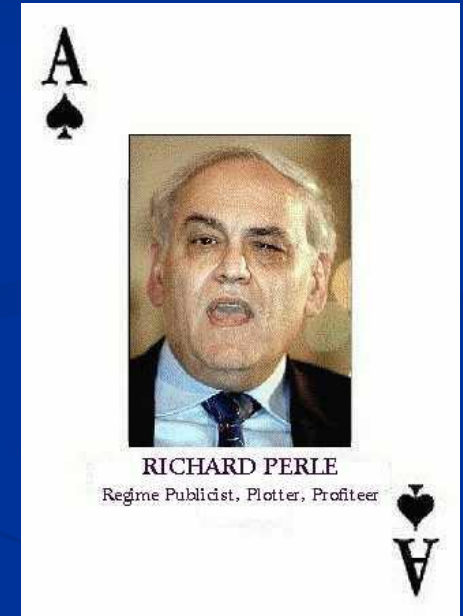


**"The most important thing is for us to find Osama Bin Laden. It is our number one priority & we will not rest until we find him."
...George Bush,
Sept. 13, 2001**

**"I don't know where he is. I have no idea & I really don't care. It's not that important. It's not our priority."
...George Bush,
March. 13, 2002**

The Connection – Architects of the war

“We should have let the Iraqis do it” -- Richard Perle
January, 2004



Liberation Iraq - Advisory Board

333 Pennsylvania, Washington, DC

- Richard Perle (Consultant to Netanyahu)
- Stephen Solarz of Michael/Solarz
- Elliott Cohen
- James P. Hoffa
- Leon Wiseltier
- William Kristol
- Bernard Lewis - Professor

Liberation Iraq - Advisory Board

333 Pennsylvania, Washington, DC

- Josh Muravchik
- Thomas Dine – Liberty Radio
- Barry Blechman
- Newt Gingrich
- Randy Schuneman
- **Mahdi Al-Bassam** – a Houston Cardiologist and Nephew of Ahmad Chalabi
(2-2-03 Houston Chronicle “Hear the Iraqi people and case for a liberating war?”)

The World Protested



USS Nimitz



Baghdad on Tigris – the day before



Baghdad the day after



Bush broadcast to Iraqis with Arabic subtitles



-- the media reports



Saddam no more?



Baghdad on Fire

- Saddam's Palace



Blowing up most government buildings except the Ministry of Oil



Why destroy weapons?



Iraq Liberation?



Looting a government warehouse



Thousands are killed, injured or missing



Displaced Orphans



Ian Jones - Pool / Reuters

Iraqi Protester – demanding reinstatement of Law and Order



Protesting U.S. Occupation





Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani

