

Iraq

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Following the end of Ottoman rule, Iraq became a British protectorate. In 1932, Iraq was declared independent and came under the rule of the Hashimid Dynasty/family (who also controlled Jordan), through a constitutional monarchy. The first King of the newly independent Iraq was Faysal I, who had technically been King throughout the duration of the mandate as well. Upon his death in 1933, he was succeeded by his son, Ghazi (no SOLS change). King Ghazi died in an accident in 1939, and was succeeded on the throne by his son, Faysal II. Faysal II remained in power until he was murdered in a 1958 military coup, which resulted in his death and a SOLS change due to the ending of the monarchy. The leader of the coup, General Abdul Karim Qasim became the leader of Iraq's government until his own assassination in 1963.

The Ba'athist movement that ousted General Qasim was led by President Abdul Salam Arif. Arif was a member of the Ittihad al-Ishtiraki al-Arabi, (IIA - also ASU), a Nasserist political party that favored the unification of Iraq with Egypt and Syria. When Arif was killed in an airplane crash in 1966, his brother Abdul Rahman Arif took over the government with the same SOLS.

Rahman Arif lost control of his government two years later when, in 1968, a group of Ba'athists backed by some military force took power. The new president, Ahmad Hassan al-Bakr, was a leader in the first Arif's regime that had been ousted in the anti-Ba'athist purge. Al-Bakr ruled until 1979, when after his resignation, his cousin Saddam Hussein took power. Because this was a transition from single party and personalist hybrid regime to just personalist, a minor SOLS change is recorded.

Hussein was the dictator of Iraq from 1979 until his removal by U.S.-led coalition forces in April of 2003. Various United States military men served as the Supreme Commander of Occupation Forces, including Franks, Garner, and Bremer. These men were technically heads of the Coalition Provisional Authority, which governed Iraq from the deposition of Hussein. None of their times in control are coded as SOLS changes, however, because the country was obviously under foreign occupation.

In 2004, Iraq's government was transferred back to indigenous leadership. Iyad Allawi took office as the Prime Minister with the Iraqi National Accord (INA) party backing him. This is not a SOLS change since Allawi was an interim leader (Washington Post).

In 2005, leadership shifted from the INA to a new political party (signaling a SOLS change) called the Islamic Da'wah Movement (IDM). This party has fielded two prime ministers--Ibrahim al-Shiqr al-Jaafari from 2005 to 2006, and Nuri al-Maliki from 2006 to the present. The condition of Iraqi democracy and the direction in which it SOLS will next shift remains uncertain due to ongoing conflict.

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