

FORUM:	United Nations Development Programme
ISSUE:	Measures to stabilize Iraq
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POSITION:	President of the United Nations Development Programme

Introduction

On May 1st, 2003, the president of the United States of America, George W. Bush, declared the official end of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the fall of Saddam Hussein regime on USS Abraham Lincoln. However, though the declaration was the end of the Operation Iraqi Freedom, it was merely the overture of political, developmental, security, and humanitarian crisis in Iraq. Immediately after the declaration of Bush, a civil war in Iraq between Sunni and Shi'a erupted, and with the rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), the domestic situation in Iraq fell into a dreadful condition of poverty, lack of development, and political instability.



President George W. Bush declaring the official accomplishment of the Operation Iraqi Freedom on May 1, 2003

About 3.3 million Iraqis had to leave their residence, most of which became refugees. Most of the social infrastructures had collapsed due to the civil wars involving ISIS and erosions; the economy has also stagnated and while its political situation remained unstable. After the series of conflicts, wars, and poverty, Iraq now needs urgent humanitarian aids for political stability and economic development. Since the purpose of the United Nations Development Programme is to promote and to successfully implement political stability and sustainable development, specific plans are required to guarantee better livelihoods of Iraqis.

Key Terms

Saddam Hussein

The former president of Iraq (1979-2003). He nationalized the oil infrastructures and companies and led the appreciation of oil price (from 2.9 USD per barrel to 11 USD per barrel) in order to enrich Iraq. He became the president after forcing President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr to resign from his

presidency. Later, he became a dictator with tyrannical rule, suppressing human rights and persecuting the Kurds in Iraq. He also started the Gulf War and Iran-Iraq War. Under the Operation Iraqi Freedom, he was arrested and executed in 2006.

The Islamic States of Iraq and Syria

Islamic extremist terrorist group that has occupied a third of the territory of Iraq. After the civil war in Syria broke out, the Islamic States of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) emerged in the border between Syria and Iraq, placing its capital at Ar-Raqqah, Syria and headquarter city in Mosul, Iraq. ISIS is notoriously known for its cruelty and arbitrary interpretation of the Sharia Law and Islamic rules.

Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilization

The sub-organization under the United Nations Development Programme established in June 2015, for the rapid implementation of cost-effective projects that local authorities identify as crucial for the stabilization of Iraq.

Oil Plant and Refinery

An industrial infrastructure that drills oil from underground and refines crude oil (raw oil without any refining process) into petroleum such as diesel, gasoline, and heating oils.

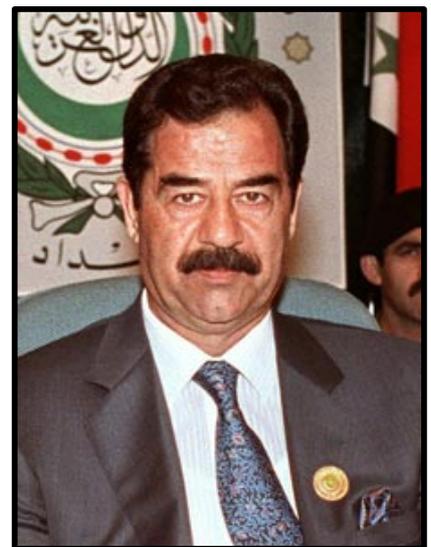
Rule of Law

The principle that all people and institutions are subject to and accountable to the law that is fairly applied and enforced; implementation of the principle of government by law.

History

Dictatorship under Hussein

In 1958, Muhammad Najib ar-Ruba'i initiated a coup d'état against the Kingdom of Iraq under Faysal II. Iraq soon became the republic with a parliamentary government system. However, the political instability continued, and by 1968, the military coup fell the previous regime, and eventually, the Ba'ath Party seized power. President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr trusted Vice President Saddam Hussein for his innovative movements, such as nationalization of Iraq Petroleum Corporation (IPC) and other modernization programs. However, Hussein's power grew and surpassed President al-Bakr's



*Saddam Hussein (1937-2006),
the President and Dictator of
Iraq (1979 - 2003)*

authority, eventually forcing him to abdicate from his presidency. Saddam Hussein was inaugurated as the president of Iraq in 1979.

Unlike his well-organized and enlightened facet as the vice president, Hussein turned his administration into despotism. He started purging all branches of government, including his supporters and family. He became an authoritarian leader, suppressing the human rights of Iraqis and persecuting the Kurds, a minor ethnic group. He created a reign of terror by secret polices, tortures, and trials without proper due processes. In 1980, he invaded Iran, sparking a war that lasted for ten years and causing more than 1 million casualties. In 1988, the Kurds in Iraq rebelled against Hussein administration that discriminated their group publically and persecuted them for a long time, but the consequence to their rebellion was miserable: in order to put down the rebellion, Hussein used poisonous gas and chemical weapons, claiming the lives of over 5,000 Kurds. In 1990, the Gulf War broke out as Hussein invaded Kuwait. The United Nations approved the US military actions to liberate Kuwait, and Iraq was defeated. At this point, Iraq became one of the poorest countries in the world. Despite the economic sanctions and tyrannical rule, the Hussein regime survived.

Iraq War

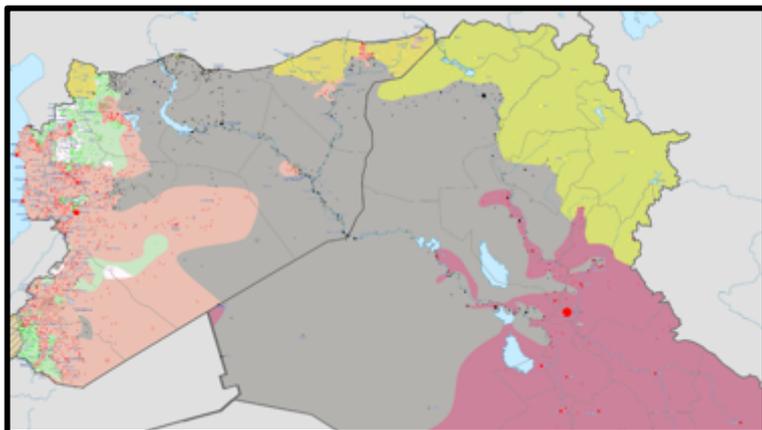
The Hussein regime did not last very long. The United States obtained information from the political refugees from Iraq that Hussein was examining weapons of mass destruction, such as biochemical weapons, and preparing to create nuclear weapons. After the US was attacked by Al-Qaeda in 2001, George W. Bush declared war against the terrorism, and Iraq was marked as one illicitly supporting terrorist groups. By oppressing the Kurds, Iraq was sealed as the “Axis of Evil” by Bush. (However, all these reasons and evidences leading up to the war were later found to be fabricated as weapons of mass destruction did not exist in Iraq, according to UK-Australia investigators, who looked for the weapons of mass destruction and chemical weapons.) On March 10, 2003, George W. Bush declared war against Hussein and Iraq, and the first airstrikes were soon deployed: Operation Iraqi Freedom started. Within two weeks, Baghdad surrendered and the Hussein regime fell. Hussein escaped— but he was arrested in 2006 and executed in the same year – and Bush declared the official victory of the US.



US-UK Allied Air Force flying the Iraqi airspace during the Iraq War

Post-Iraq War Period

Further political instability and social disorder surfaced immediately after the Iraq War in 2003. Although the US declared victory in Iraq, it, in fact, did not gain victory over Iraq. While the Operation Iraqi Freedom itself was successful, the aftermath of the war was atrocious. The Bush administration's postwar readjustment morphed into failure. The US Army's "secondary damages caused by misrecognized attacks" continued; unilateral actions without Iraq's consent and the understanding of local culture and customs continued; an occupation policy was laxly organized. Iraqis who called the US Army "the liberators" now hold the weapons that the US supplied to their army. The new government established by the US was corrupted. The Iraq Army collapsed immediately after the war as people regarded Sunni members of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CAP) as Ba'ath party members, who were persecuted and dismissed by their company. In response, the Sunni people rose against the Shi'ites, who make up the majority of the Iraq population. As a result, the domestic conflict between the Sunni and Shi'a sects broke out again via terrorism and limited warfare. With anti-American sentiment of the people, the peace preservation army, consisted of the Iraq Army and the US Army, could not maintain public security as terrorism prevailed throughout Iraq. With a void of governmental authority and corrupted governance, the situation in Iraq exacerbated, rendering the misery of those with poverty and further damaging social and economic infrastructures. Although the US army withdrew from Iraq completely in 2011, anti-American sentiments and the aftermath of the US invasion is still in effect.



The territory occupied by ISIS (grey area) in 2014

Rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria

With the political and social disorders, the Sunni jihadists united under the flag of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). Occupying one third of Iraq's territory, ISIS called itself a Caliphate, the regime of the leader of Muslim world, Caliph. Learning military tactics in Syria and finding monetary resource, ISIS surpassed the Iraq Army, thereby continuing to seize more territories.

Iraq's largest city in the north, Mosul, was captured by ISIS, and Iraq's administrative power and military power disappeared in the northern Iraq. With these situations, the political instability in Iraq intensified, causing the monetary resources of Iraq to come to a stop, and destroying more infrastructures that are critical to the country. On top of that, the rise of ISIS created more than 3.3 million refugees in Iraq. In order to prevent more casualties and implement peace in Iraq, the international army, including the US,

Russia, Australia, New Zealand, entered Iraq to eradicate ISIS. Nonetheless, the political instability intensified, and by 2014, the Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki resigned and designated Haider al-Abadi as Iraq's next Prime Minister.

Problems Raised

Political Instability

Despite the fact that the US initiated the Iraq Civil War, the main reason was the misgovernment of the Prime Minister al-Maliki. Prime Minister al-Maliki followed the constitution, distributed authority to each Islamic political faction, and negotiated with each tribe for political stability. However, after the withdrawal of the US Army, he carried out a coup d'état to detain the vice prime minister and ministers of each department, who were elected legally through democratic elections, and unjustly distributed the power exclusively to his tribe and the Shi'a sect in favor of him; he also designated his family members and friends to important positions in the Iraq Army. Like Hussein, al-Maliki also paved the way to dictatorship and eventually lost his popularity among people. In the end, forced by the US, al-Maliki was released from the office by President Fuad Masum, and al-Abadi became new Prime Minister. Even after the al-Maliki administration, misgovernment continues to prevail in the country. Currently, the central government of Iraq has no administrative power over the northern region of Iraq. Furthermore, even though democracy is once again implemented in Iraq, the corruption index, the indicator of perceived levels of corruption published by Transparency International, remains at 17 out of 100, ranking 166th among 176 countries of the world.

Destruction of Socioeconomic Infrastructure

The aftermath of both the Iraq War and the civil war is still in effect in Iraq. Although Iraq led its



Staff from the South Oil Company (SOC) demonstrating to demand higher salaries and better benefits in Basra, Iraq in 2013

way in modernization and the oil refinery system in the 1970s and 80s under Hussein regime, the continued war destroyed most of the socioeconomic infrastructures, including railroads, oil plants, road, public medical systems, and schools. For example, during the Gulf War and the Iraq War, electricity plants and oil plants were first targeted to halt the country's monetary resources of the Hussein regime and insurgent troops. The transportation, electricity, and sewage system along with

community facilities were destroyed and not yet reconstructed. Even in the capital city, Baghdad, electricity is only available for six hours per day. This lack of socioeconomic infrastructures impedes the sustainable economic development of Iraq, leading to social disorder and a high employment rate.

Unstable Public Security

Public security in Iraq is nearly nonexistent in most parts of Iraq. Even though the police and army do exist, most areas in Iraq suffer from the lack of governmental authority to oversee public security over each region. In northern Iraq where the Kurds and ISIS occupied, the public security system and administrative system of Baghdad are not reachable. Terrorism prevails in most parts of Iraq, even in the capital city, Baghdad. The civil war between Syria and ISIS is intensifying Iraq's social disorder as it continues to create refugees and prompting destruction of civilian lives. Due to the socioeconomic destruction and high unemployment rate, the people's resentment toward the government continues to harbor. With the absence of a public security system, local tribal gangsters and mobs threaten the safety of local civilians.

International Actions

UNDP Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilization (FFIS)



UNDP has created FFIS for stabilization of Iraq

While the government of Iraq sets stabilization priorities, as the manager of the FFIS, UNDP ensures the rapid implementation of cost-effective projects that local authorities identify as crucial for the first stages of stabilization. This initiative works closely with UNDP's Iraq Crisis Response and Resilience Programme (ICRRP) and the Local Area Development Programme (LADP). By the end of 2016, more than 350 projects valuing over \$300 million were responsible for rebuilding critical infrastructure, promoting public services, and stimulating the local economy. Today, thousands of people are employed to upgrade public buildings, open roads, repair infrastructures, and renovate parks. Businesses are receiving cash grants to reopen their doors, while schools and clinics are rehabilitated. Destitute families began receiving help to rebuild their damaged houses. The impact of the facility has been clear and has had a strong impact since its implementation. Since the start of the conflict in 2014, more than 1.5 million displaced Iraqis have returned to their homes. In Ramadi, nearly 350,000 have returned to the

city. In Fallujah, 170,000 people are home, and every day, hundreds more are coming. Almost all of the pre-conflict population of Tikrit and Al Dour have returned home. In March 2016 UNDP established a second intervention, the Funding Facility for Expanded Stabilization (FFES), geared towards supporting medium-scale projects that generate large numbers of jobs and consolidate corridors between liberated cities and districts. Despite the efforts of the UNDP's FFIS, the lack of socioeconomic infrastructures, such as roads and basic industrial apparatus, halts the program's progress to advance into the interior region of Iraq and desert area.

Aid from the United States of America

Commonly regarded as the one that initiated the socioeconomic crisis in Iraq, the United States of America is currently supporting humanitarian aids to Iraq via the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The USAID has been providing humanitarian aids to Iraq since the end of the Iraq War. The organization provided Iraq shelters and emergency relief commodities for Iraqi refugees who escaped from ISIS-occupied territory. Collaborating with the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), the USAID is providing food commodities to conflict-affected populations in western Mosul and at muster points and internally displaced person camps outside the city. Since the commencement of the western Mosul military offensive in mid-February, World Food Programme and its partners have distributed immediate response rations (IRRs) to benefit approximately 1.2 million people and family food rations. Not only contributing to food security, the USAID is also providing sanitation programs for Iraq civilians for the betterment of Iraqis. With the Iraq Ministry of Health, the USAID have organized campaign to mobilize more than 1,900 health care workers and volunteers and reached approximately 332,000 conflict-affected children ages five years and younger in nine newly accessible areas of Ninewa.



US government has been aiding Iraq via USAID since the end of the Iraq War

Key Players

The United States of America

The United States of America plays an important role in stabilizing the current situation of Iraq not only because it was the one directly and indirectly rendering current humanitarian and socioeconomic

crisis in Iraq, but also that it is still an active player in the current situation of Iraq. Between 2014 to 2017, the US has provided more than one million US dollars in order to promote more sustainable development and recovery of Iraq. With both the international and the domestic criticisms regarding the Iraq War, the US has been the most leading player in stabilizing Iraq and implementing proper democracy in the government of the country. By 2013, the US had supplied most of the police and military power in Iraq, assisting the new Iraq government administration. Even after the withdrawal of the US Army, the US still plays a huge role in Iraq as the US again entered the war against the ISIS since 2014, supporting the Iraq Army in recapturing Mosul, previously the 5th largest city in Iraq, located in the center of Northern Iraq.

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) also plays a significant role in stabilizing Iraq and properly responding to Iraq's humanitarian crisis. In fact, ISIS is the main, fundamental reason of the prolongation of the Iraq civil war as it rendered the humanitarian crisis in Iraq. In order to successfully implement social order and political stability, the eradication of ISIS is fundamental. Yet, ISIS rules the civilians in its occupied territory with the reign of terror, and its continued terror against the Iraq government is causing both political and social instability in Iraq. Moreover, the threats of terrorism due to ISIS halted the investments from the foreign countries, causing high unemployment rates and social upheavals. Terrorism and continued war against ISIS not only halted foreign investments in Iraq, but also delayed reconstruction of the socioeconomic infrastructures of Iraq, such as communication facilities and transportation system.

Possible Solutions

Appropriate Implementation of Rule of Law and Governance

As one of the main purposes of the United Nations Development Programme is to promote democratic governance, many problems in Iraq can be solved through democratic governance and the implementation of the rule of law. One of the fundamental problems of Iraq since the establishment of the



Successful implementation of democratic rule and anti-corruption system are important in stabilization of Iraq

Republic of Iraq was political instability and corruption. The successful launch of the rule of law would help the alleviate the political instability in Iraq. For example, suggesting national reform programs may be one solution to diminish political instability. This plan may include modernizing the Council of

Representative's internal procedures, reinforcing its oversight role, urging participatory democracy, and fostering inclusive participation in legislative processes and public policies. In addition to launching reform programs, anti-corruption plans are also necessary to bring the rule of law back into Iraq. The anti-corruption system is designed to weed out those with the most guilt and introduce meaningful accountability processes across all levels of business and politics. With the absence of corruption and the presence of judgement under rule of law, Iraq will be politically stabilized, rebuilding faith to its people.

Recovery of Social Infrastructures

Since the Gulf War and the Iraq War, most of the socioeconomic infrastructures of Iraq have been destroyed and are still not rehabilitated. Basic social infrastructures, such as water and sewage systems, the communication system, the transportation system, roads, and railways, are still damaged and are not readily available. In order to promote sustainable development of Iraq's economy and to bring social order, the successful recovery of infrastructures must be preceded. The recovery of social infrastructures, would galvanize Iraq's domestic economy as it would provide jobs to people. Not only decreasing the unemployment rate, such recoveries would also bring investments from overseas. This will effectively decrease the social upheaval against the government in short term; the recovery of socioeconomic infrastructures will be fundamental base of prospering economy of Iraq in long term.

Timeline

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1958	Establishment of Republic of Iraq
1968	Ba'ath Party dictatorship began
1972	Nationalization of oil industry by Saddam Hussein
1979	Saddam Hussein becomes the President of Iraq
1980	Iran-Iraq War
1988	Gulf War
2001	9.11, US War on Terrorism
2003	Iraq War
2006	Execution of Saddam Hussein
2006~	Sunni-Shi'a conflicts comes to the fore
2013	The Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) starts to emerge
2014	Prime Minister al-Maliki resigns

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