



Iraq: Politics, Society and the Topography of Conflict

Dr. Noga Efrati

Course Description:

The U.S. led intervention in 2003 brought dramatic changes to Iraq. It was hoped that free from the oppression of Saddam Hussein, the country would be transformed into a beacon of democracy in the Middle East. Iraq has indeed been transformed, but into a zone of conflict and instability; a quagmire of competing ethno-sectarian political and social forces. This course will articulate debates concerning the "artificiality" of the state, national identity, dictatorship, tribalism and gender relations. Against the backdrop of these debates we will analyze the sectarian, ethnic and religious tensions, threatening to fragment Iraq today.

Course Requirements:

- Weekly Reading Assignments
- Class Participation
- Oral Presentation
- Final Exam

Final Grade:

- Class Participation 10%
- Oral Presentation 10%
- Final Exam 80%

Course Outline and Reading List

1. Introduction: Understanding Conflict in Iraq - Dominant Paradigms

2. Legacy of the Past

Required Reading:

Charles Tripp, *A History of Iraq* (Cambridge, 2000), pp. 8-29.

3. State Formation: Mandate and Monarchy (1920-1958)

Required Reading:

Marion Farouk-Sluglett and Peter Sluglett, "Iraq Before the Revolution of 1958" in M. Farouk-Sluglett and P. Sluglett, *Iraq since 1958* (London, 1990), pp. 1-45.

Supplemental Reading:

Phebe Marr, *The Modern History of Iraq*, 2nd ed. (Boulder, 2003), pp. 21-79.

Roger Owen, "Class and Class Politics in Iraq before 1958: The 'Colonial and Post-Colonial State'", in Robert A. Frnea and Wm. Roger Louis, eds. *The Iraqi Revolution of 1958: The old Social Classes Revisited* (London, 1991), pp.154-171.



4. The "Artificiality" Debate

Hala Fattah, "The Question of the 'Artificiality' of Iraq as a Nation State," in Shams Inati, (ed.), *Iraq: its History, People, and Politics* (N.Y.: Humanity Books, 2003), pp. 49- 60.

5. The Many Faces of Iraq

Required Reading:

Hanna Batatu, *The Old Social Classes and the Revolutionary Movements of Iraq*. (Princeton, 1978), pp. 13-50.

Phebe Marr, *The Modern History of Iraq*, 2nd ed. (Boulder, 2003), pp. 3-19.

Hadi Elis, "The Kurdish Demand for Statehood and the Future of Iraq," *Journal of Social, Political and Economic Studies*, 29 2(2004), pp. 191-209.

Supplemental Reading:

Yitzhak Nakash, *The Shi'is of Iraq* (Princeton, 1994), pp. 13-48.

Nelida Fuccaro "Communalism and the State in Iraq: The Yazidi Kurds, c. 1869-1940", *Middle Eastern Journal*, 35(1999), pp. 1-26.

Liora Lukitz, *Iraq: The Search for National Identity* (London, 1995), pp. 22-33.

Sylvia G. Haim, 'Aspects of Jewish Life in Baghdad Under the Monarchy', *Middle Eastern Studies*, 12(1976).

6. The Identity Debate

Required Reading:

Eric Davis, *Memories of State* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005).

7. The Role of the Military in Politics and the "Dictator Debate"

Required Reading:

Muhammad Tarbush, *The Role of the Military in Politics* (London, 1982), pp. 121-166.

8. Revolution or Coup-d'etat? The Qasim Era (1958-1963)

Required Reading:

Norman Daniel, "Contemporary Perceptions of the Revolution in Iraq on 14 July 1958", in Robert A. Frnea and Wm. Roger Louis, eds. *The Iraqi Revolution of 1958*, pp. 1-30.

9. Iraq under the Ba'th (1968-2003)

A. Wars and Sanctions

Tripp, Chapter 6.

B. Tribe and Tribalism in Iraq – Reality or Invention?

Required Reading:

Amazia Baram, "Neo-Tribalism in Iraq: Saddam Hussein's Tribal Policies 1991-1996," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 29(1997), pp. 1-31.

Supplemental Reading:

Toby Dodge, *Inventing Iraq: The Failure of Nation Building and History Denied*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2003), pp. 83-100.

Faleh A. Jabar, "Sheikhs and Ideologues: Deconstruction and Reconstruction of Tribes under Patrimonial Totalitarianism in Iraq, 1968-1998, in Faleh A. Jabar and Hosham Dawod (eds.), *Tribes and Power* (London: Al-Saqi, 2003), pp. 69-109.

C. Women under the Ba'th: Empowerment or Repression?

Required Reading:



Doreen Ingrams, *The Awakened: Women in Iraq* (London: Third World Center, 1983), pp. 101-128.

Deborah Cobbett, "Women in Iraq", in CARDRI (Committee Against Repression and for Democratic Rights in Iraq), *Saddam's Iraq: Revolution or Reaction?* (London: Zed Books, 1989), 120-137.

10. Post-Saddam Iraq and the "Democratization Debate"

Required Reading:

Ali Al-Allawi, *The Occupation of Iraq: Winning the War Losing the Peace* (Yale University press, 2007).