

History 387-007: Modern Iraq

Spring 2012

Dr. S. Bakhsh

Class hours: Tuesday & Thursday 12:00 – 1:15, East Building 122

Office hours: Tuesday, 1:30-2:30 pm and by appointment, 207 East Building

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Iraq has had a turbulent history ever since it was carved out of three provinces of the Ottoman Empire at the end of World War I. In this course, we will examine the politics of Iraq under the British mandate, as an independent state under the monarchy, and as a republic after the revolution of 1958, always with special emphasis on the social composition of Iraq's people and of its ruling elites; the ideologies that shaped these elites; the various attempts to create a cohesive nation out of Iraq's disparate ethnic and religious communities; and the centrality of the state in Iraq's history. We will study in some detail the Iraqi revolution of 1958 and its legacy; the rule of the Baath and Saddam Hussein; Iraq as a player in the region and the international system; and the American invasion of Iraq and its aftermath.

Course requirements

This course will be based on both lectures and classroom discussion. Students are expected to keep up with the weekly reading. I will ask you to write three essays in the course of the semester, based on the lectures and the reading. The papers are due on Feb. 23, March 22 and April 26, There is no mid-term exam. The final will be a comprehensive, essay-type exam.

There are three required texts (available at the bookstore) and additional articles which can be accessed electronically. A list of the articles is attached. The required texts are:

Phebe Marr, *The Modern History of Iraq*

Reeva Simon, *Iraq Between the Two World Wars*

Joseph Sassoon, *Saddam Hussein's Ba'ath Party*

Weekly reading assignments

Week 1 (ending January 29): The Land & the People; the Ottoman Legacy

Marr, 3-20

Sluglett & Sluglett, "The Transformation of Land Tenure..." 491-505 (available electronically)

Week 2 (ending February 5): Iraq Under the British Mandate

Marr, 21-35

Week 3 and 4 (ending February 19): Iraq Under the Monarchy

Marr, 37-60

Kedouri, "The Kingdom of Iraq: A Retrospect," 236-282 (on E-Reserves)

Yapp, "Iraq to 1958," 169-184 (on E-Reserves)

Paper 1 due: Thurs. Feb. 23

Week 5 (ending ending February 26): The Army and Ideology: I

Simon, 1-59

Week 6 (ending March 4): The Army and Ideology: II

Simon, 69-133

Week 7 (ending March 11): The Rashid Ali Coup; World War II and its Aftermath

Simon, 135-169

Marr, 61-79

March 12-18: Spring Break

Week 8: (ending March 25): The Revolution of 1958: Qasim and Aref

Marr, 81-136

Sassoon, 16-33

Paper 2 due: Thursday, March 22

Week 9: (ending April 1): The Baath Seizure of Power

Marr, 137-174

Sassoon, 34-70

Week 10 (ending April 8): The Rise of Saddam Hussain

Marr, 175-212

Sassoon, 95-128

Marr, "Iraq: Balancing Foreign and Domestic Realities," 181-205 (on E-Reserves))

**Week 11 (ending April 15): The Kuwait Gamble and the First Gulf War;
Hunkering Down (1991-2003)**

Marr, 213-259

Sassoon, 128-161

Week 12 (ending April 22): The End of the Baath Regime: Gulf War II

Marr, 257-303

Sassoon, 162-192

Paper 3 due: Thursday, April 26

Week 13 (ending April 29): Gulf War II: Iraq under Occupation

Marr, 261-308

Sassoon, 193-226, 275-284

Week 14 (ending May 6): Review

Tues. May 15, 10:30 – 1:15: Final exam

ARTICLES AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC FORM

Farouk Sluglett & Sluglett, "The Transformation of Land Tenure...in Central and Southern Iraq"

Elie Kedouri, "The Kingdom of Iraq: A Retrospect"

Malcolm Yapp, "Iraq to 1958"

Yaphe, "Iraq's Foreign Policy"

To access the articles available in electronic form,

- On the GMU website, click "Students," then click "Libraries"
- On top of the page, click on "E-reserves"
- Scroll down to the course name (History 387-002) and instructor's name (Bakhash)
- For password, enter: "Basra" (without quotation marks)

That should get you to all but two of the assigned articles.

Web-link for the article by Farouk-Sluglett & Sluglett, "The Transformation of Land Tenure..." will be emailed to you.
