

Forum:	GA 5, United Nations Development Program
Issue:	The question of proper governance in Iraq
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Introduction

In 2003 when the regime of Saddam Hussein was brought down, a new political system was introduced in Iraq. On the foundation of a new constitution, Iraq is an Islamic, democratic federal republic, consisting in total of 18 governorates (muhafazat). The national relations have, however, been strained for some time. This has acquired the attention of the media, but it does also severely require the attention of the United Nations. The question of proper governance in Iraq is vital, not only to Iraq and the neighboring countries, it is also of great importance for the entire world. Due to rousing issues, it can already be seen that western officials are trying to avert the next war in Iraq.

Definition of Key Terms

Coalition

A group formed of several people, states, political parties etc. that agree to work temporarily together towards a common goal.

Al Qaeda

A network made up of Islamic extremists, and Salafist Jihadists. Designated as a terrorist organisation by the United Nations Security Council.

The Arab Spring

A revolutionary wave of both violent and non-violent coups, riots, protests, demonstrations and civil wars in the Middle East, and North Africa.

Referendum

A direct vote in which an entire electorate is urged to vote on the given matter.

History

On the 20th of March 2003, a United States coalition invaded Iraq. This was due to the claim that Iraq had failed to abandon its weapons of mass destruction program which was in violation of the UN resolution 687. In the time after the coalition, it was arranged that a Coalition Provisional Authority was to govern Iraq.

In January 2005, the first election since the coalition was held, and in October the new Constitution was approved. Meanwhile insurgent attacks were happening all over the country, increasing by approximately 8000 attacks from 2004 to 2005.

During 2006, violence reached its peak. Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of Al Qaeda in the Iraqi division, was killed by the US forces. The former dictator of Iraq, Saddam Hussein was also sentenced to death for crimes against humanity, and hanged.

In May 2007, the United States were called upon to set a timetable for withdrawal by the Iraqi Parliament. The United States' coalition partners such as the United Kingdom, and Denmark, began to withdraw their forces from Iraq

The Iraqi government signed the US-Iraq Status of Forces agreement with the United States. This entailed the US having to completely withdraw their forces from Iraq by the 31st of December 2011.

Since the withdrawal of the United States' troops in 2011, Iraq has suffered from political instability, and the Arab Spring protests spread to Iraq in 2011. The Iraqi National Movement, reportedly representing the Iraqi Sunnis initiated a boycotting Shiite-dominated Parliament which lasted several weeks from late 2011 till early 2012. The levels of violence continued to rise in 2012 and 2013.

During 2013 attacks were made by the Iraqi Sunnis targeting the Shia population of Iraq. In the following year, Sunnis belonging to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) took control over a fairly large amount of the country, including larger cities like Mosul. As a result, many people were displaced due to the atrocities of the ISIL fighters.

Due to an inconclusive election in April 2014, Nouri al-Maliki served as caretaker-Prime Minister. However, on the 11th of August he was chosen to continue as Prime Minister due to his bloc being the biggest in parliament. Nonetheless, the Iraqi president tasked Haider al-Abadi with trying to form a new government. This suggestion was heavily backed by the United Nations, the United States, the European Union and many more who all saw the opportunity for a new government as an improvement. On the 9th of September 2014, Haider al-Abadi had formed a new government, and was now Prime Minister of Iraq.

Many of the recent conflicts in Iraq have happened due to the vastly different population all having to fit into the one country. This has led to debates concerning a possible division of Iraq into three regions; a Kurdistan in the northeast, a Sunnistan in the west, and a Shiastan in the southeast.

A referendum for independence for the Iraqi Kurdistan was held on the 25th of September 2017. At this election, the vast majority (approximately 93%) voted in favor of independence. The Prime Minister, however, refuses to discuss the result of the referendum, seeing as the Iraqi government as a whole rejects the legality of the referendum. Nevertheless, this will not erase the fact that a striking majority of the Kurdish wish for independence.

Key issues

One of the key issues in solving this problem is creating proper governance for a country in which the citizens are so divided. In this question, one must consider ways in which the governance will both represent all of Iraq with no aspects of favouritism.

Another key issue in this question is getting all the different parts of Iraq to cooperate on the question of proper governance.

Major parties involved

The United States of America

The United States of America has been very involved in the wellbeing of Iraq since the coalition 2003. Their influence has been compelling since then. Their interest in Iraq didn't end when they pulled out their forces in December 2011. Since then, their interest in the country has been consistent.

The United Nations

The United Nations have been a vital party in Iraq's affairs. The United Nations have consistently expressed concerns, and have had the conflict in Iraq as a focus. This can be seen in their Iraq-Kuwait observation mission in 2003, and their advisory of the advantages of a new government in 2014.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
March 20 th , 2003	A United States coalition invaded Iraq.
January 2005	First election since the coalition.
May 2007	The Iraqi government called upon the United States to issue a timetable of withdrawal.
December 31 st , 2011	The date in which the US had to be fully withdrawn from Iraq.
September 9 th , 2014	Haider al-Abadi formed a new government, and was now Prime Minister of Iraq.
September 25 th , 2017	Iraqi Kurdistan independence referendum.

Evaluation of previous attempts

There have been many attempts to solve the several crises that Iraq has been subject to during the last many years. The United States of America has attempted before to help governance in Iraq by overthrowing the dictator Saddam Hussein. Furthermore, the United States made a 36-page long plan to end the war in Iraq in 2008. This not only stated that they had to withdraw their forces by the end of 2011, but their objectives were also to address the country's economic situation, governmental transparency and accountability, and constitutional rights. Even though there has been made incentives like the before mentioned to help the situation in Iraq, it seems to have faded over the years. The question of proper governance has always been relevant. It was also relevant after the United States' coalition. Even though there have been some attempts to solve this problem, there are still many troubles in Iraq that require attention.

Possible solutions

Possible solutions for this problem to take all the different types of people into consideration. When a country has such a split population, one must attempt to consider them all when trying to find a solution in the question of proper governance.

Another solution would be to consider whether or not the question of splitting Iraq is for the better, or if it is possible to unify the population. One should also see the importance in urging the population to engage in politics, and political affairs.

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