Iraq Important Dates

Ancient Mesopotamia

Part of Arab conquest 7th century A.D.

1258 Baghdad falls to the Mongols. Caliphate ended. Long term economic decline.

Part of Ottoman Empire 16th century; control fluctuates between Ottomans, Safavids, Mamlukes

1920 League of Nations mandate to British (terminated in1932). Iraq formed from three previous provinces, with capitals in Mosul, Baghdad and Basra.

1921 Kingdom under Faisal I of the Hashemites

1920s First oil discoveries

1925 League of Nations decides that Mosul should remain part of Iraq

**1933 King Faisal** dies, is succeeded by King Ghazi

1939 King Ghazi dies in an auto accident; succession goes to his infant son Faisal II, under the regency of Prince Abd al-Ilah

1941 Military coup establishes ‘Government of National Defence,’ and regent flees Baghdad; British troops march on the city and regent returns

1948 Iraq participates in war against Israel; token participation in 1967 war, as also 1973

1953 King Faisal enthroned; regency ends

**1958 Miliary coup**, eliminating Hashemites. Iraq becomes republic under General Karim Kassem. Recent Federation between Iraq and Jordan is dissolved. Agrarian Reform Law

1959 Mustafa Barzani asserts control of Kurdistan Democratic Party

1965 Conflicts between Kurds and Iraqi army escalate to full-scale war

1968 Military coup brings Ba’ath party to power. Some tilting towards USSR

1969 Saddam Hussein appointed to ruling Revolutionary Council, becomes vice-chairman

1970 Limited autonomy to Kurdistan. Strengthened land reform

**1972 Nationalization** of oil industry

1974 Fighting between government and Kurds

1975 Algiers Agreement between Hussein and Shah ends Iran’s assistance to KDP; Kurdish movement split into KDP (Barzani) and PUK (Talabani)

1978 Expulsion from Iraq of Iran’s Ayatollah Khomeini. Baghdad Summit (following Camp David) marks (basically unsuccessful) Iraqi bid for Arab leadership.

1979 Saddam Hussein becomes president

**1980-88 War with Iran.** Over 40,000 Shi’a expelled to Iran. Iraq’s attack is initially successful, but is reversed by Iranian counteroffensive in 1982. Iraq rebuilds with aid from Europe and US.

1981 Israeli jets bomb a nuclear reactor under construction outside Baghdad

1986-89 Genocidal campaign against Iraqi Kurds (called al-Anfal); 100,000-200,000 died.

**1990 Invasion of Kuwait**

1991 Gulf War. Leads to demands for Iraqi reparations payments of US$50-$100 billion. Sanctions imposed; Kurdistan evolves

1996 “Oil for food” program started

**2003 US-led attack**. Saddam Hussein captured in December 2003, and executed in December 2006. The insurgency against the invaders began immediately. Violence along Sunni/Shia lines accelerated after the bombing of the Al Askari Mosque in Samarra, in February 2006.

**2007 Surge** of another ~20,000 troops,

2008 US-Iraq Status of Forces Agreement on timetable for removal of foreign troops from Iraq. Obama’s victory in US presidential elections.

2010 Elections in March, very delayed process for selection of Prime Minister, who is Nouri al-Maliki

2011 US President Obama announces all US troops will leave by end of the year, which occurs.

2013 Country’s internal violence increases sharply, fed by spillovers from Syria’s civil war, leaving perhaps 8,000 dead.

Link to BBC timeline on [Iraq](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/737483.stm)