UNIVERSITY OF CA RIVERSIDE, LIBRARY
3 1210 02485 2434

background notes

Iraq

GovPub
US
S 1
.123
:Ir 1/2
/982

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
RIVERSIDE
DEC 2 1982
LIBRARY
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS DEPT.
U. S. DEPOSITORY

United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs

August 1982

Official Name:
Republic of Iraq

PROFILE

People

Nationality: *Noun and adjective*—Iraqi(s). **Population** (1981 est.): 14 million. **Annual growth rate:** 3.3%. **Ethnic groups:** Arab (75%), Kurd (15%–20%). **Religions:** Shi'a Muslim (55%); Sunni Muslim (40%), Christian (5%). **Languages:** Arabic, Kurdish, Assyrian, Armenian. **Education:** *Compulsory*—through age 10. *Literacy*—70%. **Health:** *Infant mortality rate*—25/1,000. *Life expectancy*—56.1 yrs.

Geography

Area: 434,924 sq. km. (167,924 sq. mi.); about the size of California. **Cities:** *Capital*—Baghdad (pop. 3.8 million). *Other cities*—Basra, Mosel, Kirkuk. **Terrain:** Alluvial plains, mountains, and desert. **Climate:** Mostly hot and dry.

Government

Type: Ruling council. **Independence:** 1932. **Interim constitution:** 1970.

Branches: *Executive*—Revolutionary Command Council (RCC); president and Council of Ministers appointed by RCC. *Legislative*—National Assembly of 250 members elected for first time in 1980. *Judicial*—Civil, religious, and special courts.

Administrative subdivisions: 18 provinces.

Political parties: Ba'ath Party dominates; Kurdish Democratic Party and Kurdish Revolutionary Party are only other legal parties. **Suffrage:** Universal adult.

Central government economic development budget (1981 est.): $23 billion.

National holidays: Anniversaries of the 1958 and 1968 revolutions are celebrated July 14 and July 17. Various additional official and religious holidays.

Flag: Three horizontal bands of red, white, and black, with three green stars on center white band.

Economy

GNP (1979 est.): $31 billion. **Annual growth rate** (1979 est.): 18%. **Per capita income:** $2,410. **Avg. inflation rate** (1981 est.): 30%.

Natural resources: Oil, natural gas, phosphates, sulfur.

Agriculture (less than 10% of GNP): Wheat, barley, rice, cotton, dates, poultry.

Industries: Petroleum, petrochemicals, textiles, cement.

Trade (1981): *Exports*—$11 billion: crude oil, dates. *Major markets*—Western Europe, Brazil, Japan. *Imports*—$19 billion: construction equipment, machinery, motor vehicles, agricultural commodities. *Major suppliers*—Japan, Western Europe, US.

Official exchange rate (floats with US$): 0.294 Iraqi dinar = US$1; 1 dinar = US$3.40.

Membership in international organizations: UN, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Nonaligned Movement, Islamic Conference Organization, Arab League, Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), INTELSAT.

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Almost 75% of Iraq's population live in the flat, alluvial plain stretching from north of Baghdad past Basra to the Persian Gulf. The Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, which irrigate the area, carry about 70 million cubic meters of silt annually to the delta. The legendary locale of the Garden of Eden, the region also contains the ruins of Ur, Babylon, and other ancient cities.

The mountains in the northeast are an extension of the Alpine system that runs southeast through the Balkans, the Taurus Mountains of southern Turkey, northern Iraq, and Iran, and into Afganistan, finally ending in the Himalayas.

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA