

## **Iraq – A Chronology**

**1534–1918:** Region now known as Iraqi is part of the Ottoman Empire.

**1920:** San Remo Peace Conference of Allied Powers endorses the British and French mandate over the Middle East.

**1921:** King Faisal is crowned King of Iraq.

**1927:** British strike oil at Kirkuk, Iraq.

**1932:** Formal independence is given to Iraq

**1933:** King Faisal I dies of natural causes. His son, Ghazi, is crowned king.

**1936:** Jafar Pasha Al-Askari, Minister of Defense, is assassinated during Iraq's first military coup. His death is an enormous loss for the newly founded country.

**1938:** Jafar Pasha Al-Askari's brother-in-law and best friend, Nouri Pasha Al-Said becomes Iraq's Prime Minister

**1939:** King Ghazi I dies in an automobile accident. His four-year-old son, Faisal II, succeeds. Prince Abd al-Ilah is appointed Regent.

**1941:** There is a military coup and Iraq's king and Prime Minister is forced to temporarily flee.

**1958:** Another military coup has more tragic results. The Prime Minister and members of the royal family, including the king, are assassinated.

**1959:** Yet another coup. This is when Saddam Hussein has to flee to Egypt.

**1968:** The Baathists return to power and Saddam Hussein becomes second in command.

**1979:** Saddam Hussein becomes president. One of his first presidential acts is to purge many members of the Baathist Party.

**1980:** Iraq and Iran go to war.

**1981:** Israel bombs the Iraqi Osirak nuclear plant near Baghdad.

**1987:** Saddam Hussein uses chemical warfare against Kurdish villages, killing thousands. The world ignores the inhumane act.

**1988 February:** Formal cease-fire in the Iran-Iraq war.

**1990 August:** Iraq invades Kuwait. UN Resolution 660 calls for Saddam Hussein to withdraw his troops. Iraq annexes Kuwait as its nineteenth province.

**1991 January 17:** Operation Desert Storm begins.

**1991 February:** Iraqi troops are routed.

**1991 February 28:** There is a ceasefire.

**1991 Mid-March/early April:** Southern Shiite and northern Kurdish populations are encouraged by Iraq defeat. They rebel against Saddam, resulting in a brutal crackdown.

**1991 April 3:** The UN Security Council Resolution 687 establishes the terms of the peace. All Iraqi troops are out of Kuwait.

**1991 April:** UN-approved safe-haven established in northern Iraq to protect the Kurds. Iraq ordered to end all military activity in the area.

**1992 August:** A no-fly zone is set up in southern Iraq. Iraqi military planes are forbidden to enter.

**1998 June:** American author, Jean Sasson, (who wrote *The Rape of Kuwait*) writes to Saddam Hussein requesting permission and a visit visa to go into Iraq. A formal invitation is issued from Saddam Hussein's office.

**1998 July/August:** Jean Sasson obtains her Iraqi visa from the UN Mission in NY. She travels to Jordan and from there goes by automobile into Baghdad, remaining in the country on a research trip for three weeks.

**1998 November:** All UN inspectors withdraw from Iraq.

**2002 September:** President George Bush calls for action against Iraq. Iraq agrees to allow international weapons inspectors to return to Iraq without conditions.

**2002 November:** UN weapons inspectors return to Iraq backed by a UN resolution which threatens serious consequences if Iraq is found to be in "breach" of its terms.

**2003 March:** UK's ambassador to the UN says the diplomatic process on Iraq has ended. The arms inspectors evacuate. US President George W Bush gives Saddam Hussein and his sons 48 hours to leave Iraq or face war. Saddam and his sons ignore the order.

**March 19 2003:** US-led invasion leads to the end of Saddam Hussein's government, marks start of years of violent conflict with different groups competing for power.

**2003 July:** US appointed Governing Council meets for first time. Commander of US forces says his troops face low-intensity guerrilla-style war. Saddam's sons Uday and Qusay, along with Qusay's young son, are killed in gun battle in Mosul.

**2003 August:** Suicide truck bomb wrecks UN headquarters in Baghdad. Popular UN envoy, Sergio Vieira de Mello, is killed in the attack.

**2003 December 14:** Saddam Hussein is captured in Tikrit.

**2004 April/May:** Shiite militias loyal to radical cleric Moqtada Sadr start fighting against coalition forces. The US military responds and hundreds are reported killed in fighting during the month-long US military siege of the Sunni Muslim city of Fallujah.

**2005 February:** Eight million Iraqis freely vote in elections for a Transitional National Assembly.

**2005 April:** Amid escalating violence, parliament selects Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani as president. Ibrahim Jaafari, a Shiite, is named as prime minister.

**2005 June:** Massoud Barzani is sworn in as regional president of Iraqi Kurdistan.

**2005 August:** An Iraqi draft constitution is endorsed by Shiite and Kurdish negotiators. Sunni representatives reject the document.

**2005 October:** Iraqi voters approve a new constitution, which aims to create an Islamic federal democracy.

**2005 December:** Iraqis vote for the first full-term government and parliament since the American led invasion.

**2006 May/June:** Sectarian violence claims the lives of more than 100 Iraqi civilians a day, according to the UN.

**2006 June 7:** Al-Qaeda leader in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, is killed in an air strike.

**2006 November:** Iraq and Syria restore diplomatic relations after nearly a quarter century. During this same period of time, more than 200 die in car bombings in the mostly Shiite area of Sadr City in Baghdad, in the worst attack on the capital since the US-led invasion of 2003.

**2006 December:** Iraq Study Group report reports to President Bush on future policy in Iraq. Their report describes the situation in Iraq as grave and deteriorating.

**2006 December:** Saddam Hussein is executed for crimes against humanity.

**2008 September:** The US hands over control of the western province of Anbar. It is the first Sunni province to be returned to the Iraqi Shiite led government.

**2008 November:** The Iraqi Parliament approves a security pact with the United States under which all US troops are due to leave the country by the end of 2011.

**2009 January:** The Iraqi government takes control of security in Baghdad's fortified Green Zone, assuming more powers over foreign troops based in the country.

**2009 March:** President Barack Obama announces the withdrawal of most US troops by the end of 2010. An advisory force will leave by the end of 2011.

**2009 June:** Six years after the invasion, the US withdraws from Iraqi towns and cities, handing over security duties to new Iraqi forces.

**2010 January:** "Chemical" Ali Hassan al-Majid, a key figure in Saddam Hussein's government, is executed.

**2010 August:** Seven years after the US-led invasion, the last US combat brigade leaves Iraq.

**2010 October:** A church in Baghdad is seized by militants. The militants murder 52 Christians in what is described as the worst single disaster to hit Iraq's Christians in modern times.

**2011 August:** Violence escalates. There are more than 40 coordinated nationwide attacks in one day.

**2011 December:** The US military completes troop pull-out.

**2012:** Shiite areas are targeted throughout the country, sparking fears of a new sectarian conflict. The numbers are sobering: 200 people killed in January; 160 in June, 113 in July, 70 in August, 62 in September, and 35 in November.

**2012 December:** President Jalal Talabani suffers a stroke but slowly recovers.

**2013:** Widespread sectarian attacks continue.