
Class: Geography

Lesson #14

Date: 4/19

Learning Target: I can explain conflict between the United States & Iraq.

Warm Up

Read the following introduction paragraph on the Iraqi Baath Party and answer the following questions on a piece of paper.

1. What was the goal of the Baath Party?
2. Who became the president of Iraq in 1979?
3. How did the Baath party become restrictive and controlling?

The Iraqi Baath party was founded in 1951 and had 500 members three years later. The word Baath means renaissance in Arabic. A committed Baathist should see individual Arab states as regions or provinces of the larger Arab nation. Saddam Hussein joined it as a 20-year-old in 1956. Though the Baath party was formally the institution that ruled Iraq, actual power, even in the early days, was in the hands of a narrow elite united by family and tribal ties, not ideology. The party had a highly regimented structure. At the lowest level - the village - it had cells of between three and seven people, rising up to regional commands and a national command. The Baath was meant to rule and make policy by consensus. In Iraq, all major decisions went through Saddam Hussein who from 1979 was president, head of the Revolutionary Command Council and secretary general of the Baath party. In 1979 several high-ranking Baathists were tried and were executed for allegedly planning a coup. Other prominent party members were forcibly retired in 1982. In the 1980's, the socialist ideology of the party accommodated itself to capitalism. Nationalized industries were privatized. Iraqi businessmen trying to take advantage of the country's oil wealth often pursued their ambitions through the party.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/2886733.stm

Warm Up Answers

1. What was the goal of the Baath Party?
 - a. Rule Iraq through a consensus (general agreement), keep Arab states separate
2. Who became the president of Iraq in 1979?
 - a. Saddam Hussein
3. How did the Baath party become restrictive and controlling?
 - a. Forced people into retirement, executions



Lesson Activity

Using the same piece of paper from the Warm Up Activity, watch the video detailing the complicated relationship between United States & Iraq and answer the following discussion questions

1. How did the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait change the relationship between Iraq and the United States?
 2. Explain how UN sanctions paved the way to the 2003 US invasion of Iraq.
 3. Why did the “de-Baathling” of Iraq set up future governments for failure?
 4. How was the average Iraqi impacted by the US invasion of 2003?
 5. How has the 2003 invasion impacted Iraq in the Middle East?
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The video thumbnail features a black top bar, a white middle section with the title, and a blue bottom section with a white wave-like border. The text is centered and uses a clean, sans-serif font.

MIDDLE EAST EXPLAINED

The Iraq War:
Causes and Ramifications

Practice

1. How did the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait change the relationship between Iraq and the United States?
 2. Explain how UN sanctions paved the way to the 2003 US invasion of Iraq.
 3. Why did the “de-Baathling” of Iraq set up future governments for failure?
 4. How was the average Iraqi impacted by the US invasion of 2003?
 5. How has the 2003 invasion impacted Iraq in the Middle East?
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Practice Answers

1. How did the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait change the relationship between Iraq and the United States?
 - a. Saddam Hussein becomes viewed as the “bad guy” and a dictator. Tension evolves between the two countries where there was little before.
 2. Explain how UN sanctions paved the way to the 2003 US invasion of Iraq.
 - a. Sanctions stopped medicine and health supplies from entering the country, creating anger towards Western countries.
 3. Why did the “de-Baathling” of Iraq set up future governments for failure?
 - a. Removing people from positions, letting go of past culture, jobless.
 4. How was the average Iraqi impacted by the US invasion of 2003?
 - a. Iraqis leaving country through refugee countries, divided “zones” internalizes problems.
 5. How has the 2003 invasion impacted Iraq in the Middle East?
 - a. Seen as strong country before, dismantled state now
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Reflection

1. According to this political cartoon, how are sanctions impacting Iraqis?
2. How could the United States mend and fix the relationship between Iraq in 2020?

