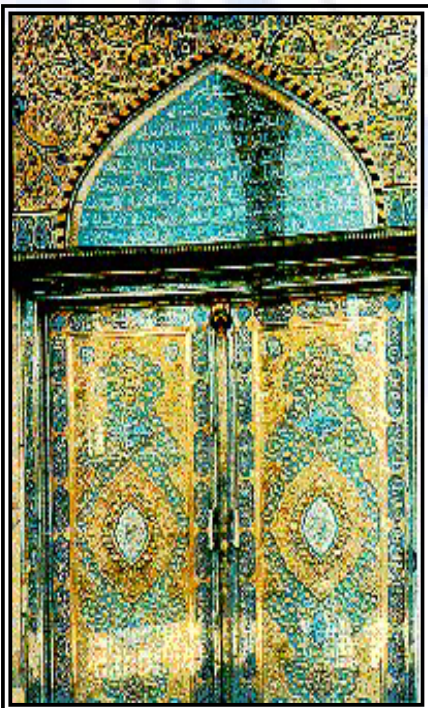


Cultural Corner

More recent history

In 1535 AD, Ottoman Turks took over Baghdad and ruled over Iraq until the Great War (World War I). When the Ottomans sided with Germany and the Central Powers, British forces invaded the country. They suffered a major defeat during the Siege of Kut (1915–16) but regrouped and captured Baghdad in 1917. An armistice was signed in 1918 and On 11 November 1920 Baghdad became a League of Nations mandate under British control with the name "State of Iraq".

Britain imposed a Hāshimite monarchy on Iraq and defined the territorial limits of Iraq without taking into account the aspirations of the different ethnic and religious groups in the country, in particular those of the Kurds to the north. Britain used phosphorus bombs against Kurdish villagers. Legal experts consider phosphorus bombs chemical weapons. The British resorted to military force when their interests were threatened, as in the 1941 British invasion of Iraq .



The Iraqi Monarchy



Emir Faisal, leader of the Arab revolt against the Ottoman sultān during the Great War, and member of the Sunni Hashimite family from Mecca, became the first king of the new state.

In 1927, huge oil fields were discovered near Kirkuk and brought economic improvement. King Ghazi I succeeded to Emir Faisal in 1933. He claimed Iraqi sovereignty over Kuwait before dying in a car accident in April 1939. King Faisal I (1935-1958), the only son of King Ghazi I was four when his father died. His uncle 'Abd al-Ilah' became regent (April 1939-May 1953). In 1945, Iraq joined the United Nations. In 1948, Iraq and five other Arab countries fought a war against the newly-

declared State of Israel. The cost of the war had a negative impact on Iraq's economy.

The Republic

After the Hashimite monarchy had been overthrown, Iraq was proclaimed a republic in 1958. Later the oil companies were nationalized and the government gave priority to agriculture and industry. As a result of these policies Iraq experienced fast economic growth. During the 1970s, border disputes with Iran and Kuwait caused many problems. They were temporarily resolved with the signing of the Algiers Accord on 6 March 1975. In retrospect, the 1970s can be seen as a high point in Iraq's modern history. The fast growing economy brought prosperity and stability. Many Arabs outside Iraq considered it an example. But territorial disputes with Iran led to a costly eight-year war. the *Iran-Iraq War* (1980 – 1988) devastated the economy.

Invasion of Kuwait and the Persian Gulf War

Territorial dispute led to the invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and to the Gulf War on January 17, 1991. Thousands of civilians were killed. Even after the cease-fire in April 1991 strict conditions were imposed on the Iraqi people.



Iraq under UN Sanction



According to UN estimates, between 500,000 and 1.2 million children died during the years of the sanctions.

PROJECT

- Choose one or two activities from the list below and write a research project . Illustrate your project with pictures. You will find valuable information and plenty of pictures on the internet.

1. Make a timeline from the most ancient civilizations (Sumerians, Mesopotamians, Egyptians, etc) to the most modern ones.

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2. Choose one Mesopotamian myth and explain it .

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3. Choose ancient professions and list the possible products they have to use for trade. Figure out how people in ancient Mesopotamia would trade with others, so that they can get everything they need for a comfortable life. (For example: How would a shipbuilder buy one pottery item?)

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4. Name ancient professions (scribe, priest, fisherman) and list the responsibilities related to each job.

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5. -Select a significant invention from the ancient times and write about its evolution through the ages.

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Examples of inventions:

- From the first system of writing to the current writing system.
- From the concept of "number" to the computer.
- From the first forms of communication (songs) to the present means of communication (telephone, media, internet etc)
- From medicine in the earliest civilizations to medicine in the present.

