

Iraq



Government type: Federal Parliamentary Republic. The current president of Iraq is Fuad Masum, indirectly elected by Council of Representatives. Iraq has gone through several changes. They were a kingdom until 1958, when they declared themselves a republic. A string of strongmen led until 2005, where they formed the government they have today.

Key events: Iraq was involved in many wars and other conflicts during the 1970-present period. Starting from 1973 Iraq enters the arab-israeli war and also takes part in the oil embargo against israeli supporters and her allies inevitably worsen the energy crisis of the 1970's. 6 years later the Iraqi president (Al-Bakr) resigns, and the vice president Saddam Hussein takes power and starts killing off his political rivals while forcibly becoming Iraq's dictator. 4 years later Iraq engaged in the terrible 8 year long Iran-Iraq war the war would shape Iraq's future even though the outcome was inconclusive, the war helped forge Iraq's impressive army of nearly 1 million by the time of the gulf war.

Geography: Iraq is a medium sized oil rich country located in the middle east neighboring Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The climate of the country consists of deserts with mild winters and hot and brutal summers, and large snowy mountains to the north along Iraq's border with Iran and Turkey. Most of Iraq's population lives along the Tigris and Euphrates rivers and other centers along its small coast, other populations live near the oil fields for work.

Economy: Iraq has a mostly state run economy, with its main export being oil and most oil fields being owned by government owned or partnered companies exporting over 3 million barrels a day. Iraq's current currency and the standard of living are fairly poor as of 2017 with only the very rich being able to live well off. Unemployment has been rampant throughout the country since ISIS and many other factions tearing the country apart and causing many skilled workers and businesses to leave the country.



Cultural: Iraq has a population of 38,146,025. The main religion of Iraq is Islam, with 99% of Iraqis following. Arabic and Kurdish are the official languages of Iraq. Most of the population is in the north, middle, and east, with smaller or no population in the south. The legal drinking age in Iraq is 18. Some popular dishes include Falafel, Quzi, Tikka, and Gauss.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-34353349>

<http://www.cfr.org/iraq/iraq-iraqs-prewar-military-capabilities/p7695#p0>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/iz.html>

<http://www.worldtravelguide.net/iraq/food-and-drink>