

The United States, Iran, and Iraq

Prepared by

Sayuri Shimizu (Michigan State University)

Molly Wood (Wittenberg University)

Chris Jespersen (North Georgia College & State University)

Andrew Johns (Brigham Young University)



Readings

Marr, Phebe. The Modern History of Iraq 2nd ed. (Westview, 2003).

Sabini, John. Islam: A Primer 6th ed. (Amideast, 2001)

Packer, George. The Assassins' Gate (Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux, 2006)
Williams, Kayla. Love My Rifle More than You (Norton, 2006)
May, Ernest, ed. The 9/11 Commission Report with Related Documents (Bedford, 2007)
Sick, Gary. All Fall Down (Authorhouse, 2001) or Pollack, Kenneth. The Persian Puzzle (Random House, 2005)
Coursepack.
No End in Sight, a documentary film directed by Charles Ferguson III

Goal: This course is designed to provide a thorough investigation into the history and nature of relations between the United States, Iran, and Iraq over the last century. One aim of this course is to consider the complicated interactions between these three nations and their peoples.

Calendar of Classes

Week 1: The Current Situation in Iraq: Discuss No End in Sight.

How does Ferguson's documentary depict the decision-making that led to war, and what the situation in Iraq was at the time of the film?

Week 2: Background and British Mandate

Background to Islam and Iraq: Sabini, all, Marr, chapt. 1

The British are coming and the impact of World War I. Marr, chapt 2.

Week 3: Origins of America's Interest in the Region (Is it all about oil?) 1932-1945

The British are holding on. Marr, chapt. 3.

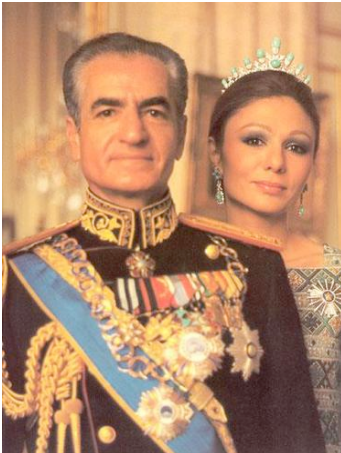
World War Two and the need for oil. Yergin, chapt. ?

Week 4: Shalom! The creation of Israel and implications for the U.S., Iran, and Iraq.

Something here

Marr, chapt. 4.

Week 5: Mohammed Reza Pahlavi: Here Comes the Shah: 1953



Sick, chapt. 1

Week 6: From Suez to Six Day War: Nasser, Qasim, and strong rulers in the region.
Marr, chapt. 5.



Week 7: Beach Blanket Bingo and Baath Party Rule



Marr, chapt. 6.
Sick, chapt. 2.

Week 8: Iranian Revolution and Saddam's taking control.
Marr, chapt. 7.
Rise of Islamic fundamentalism. Sick, chapt. 3-6.

Week 9: WWE Smackdown I: The Ayatollah of Rock 'n' Rolla vs. Saddam "WMD"
Hussein: Iran-Iraq War.
Marr, chapt. 8; Sick, 7-15.



Week 10: The First Gulf War: 1990-1991.
Marr, chapt. 9.

Week 11: Clinton and the politics of sanctions.
Marr, chapt. 10.
2000 presidential election.

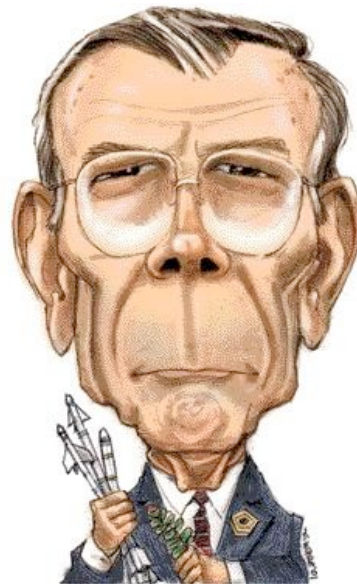
Week 12: 9/11, Afghanistan, and the impact on the region.
May, all.
Packer, 1st third.

Week 13: Boots on the ground: the impact on Iraqis and American soldiers.
Williams, all.
Packer, 2nd third.

Week 14: End: Reflections and Reconsiderations or is it really all Donald Rumsfeld's fault?
Packer, 3rd third.



“Whose your Baghdaddy?”



I, Rumsfeld!

Assignments or the secret methodology by which you will be evaluated.