

Modern Iraq - Background

1. What was the most important political problem that faced Iraq when it got its independence?
2. Why wasn't the Ba'athist Party able to hold on to power in 1963? What government succeeded it?
3. Why was the Ba'athist Party more successful in ruling Iraq between 1968 and 1973?
4. How did Saddam Hussein gain real power in Iraq?
5. What were the causes of the Iran-Iraq War?
6. Why and how did the United States help the Iraqis in this war?
7. What does it mean when one labels the Iran-Iraq War as a "classic case of peace by attrition?" [What does the word 'attrition' mean?]
8. How did the United States deal with the Kurds who were resisting Saddam's government during the Gulf War? What is the Northern Safe Haven?
9. How do the anti-Hussein forces view the United States today? Why do they hold that view?