

President Barzani: Democracy is threatened in Iraq, potential resurgence of ISIS if US forces withdraw



National P 3

Kurdistan President discuss bilateral relations with presidents of Turkey, Bulgaria



National P 2

In the heart of Washington, PM Barzani charts a new course for Kurdistan-US relations



National P 7

Canada celebrates 10th anniversary presence in the Kurdistan Region



Culture P 8

Ceremony for the suffering of the night of the bombing of Erbil



Editorial

Barzani's path: A journey of liberation and existence



By | **Dr. Salar Othman**

The late Barzani, a distinguished figure in national leadership, delved into the pages of history intending to shape a more promising future. Throughout his life, he dedicated himself to the pursuit of social harmony, political cohesion, harmonious cohabitation, environmental preservation, social equality, and fairness. Despite facing numerous challenges and navigating a future laden with obligations, his unwavering commitment to these ideals was evident in his engagement in struggle, resistance, and revolution.

We are commemorating a prominent national figure who dedicated his entire life to eliminating darkness from future generations. In practical terms, he illuminated numerous paths to progress, allowing the nation to move forward under the guiding light of these torches.

This prominent leader laid the foundation for the nation, elucidating principles such as liberty, existence, democracy, and harmonious cohabitation, all aimed at achieving ambitious goals. Barzani's journey represents not only the pursuit of national unity but also spans the comprehensive domains of cultural preservation, environmental conservation, women's rights, gender equality, youth empowerment, national equality, coexistence, and national resilience. His endeavors extended to various aspects of life, including education, agriculture, and livelihood development during the Great Aylul Revolution. Reflecting on the illustrious era of the revolution reveals that Barzani's trajectory embraced politics in all its facets throughout his entire life.

Furthermore, Barzani's journey embodies the essence of freedom. Just as we contributed our blood in the past, we remain committed now and will persist in our efforts to attain freedom in the future. Freedom, he believed, is the catalyst that propels nations towards their goals and a more deserved quality of life. These were the primary objectives of the late Barzani. Even 45 years after his passing, President Massoud Barzani continues to carry on the legacy, guiding the nation toward the fulfillment of political harmony, peace, and independence.

Diplomatic Missions Welcome Kurdistan President's Move to Hold Elections

Diplomats and foreign missions in Erbil and Baghdad welcome the decision by Kurdistan Region President Nechirvan Barzani to hold the parliamentary election. The diplomatic missions expressed their support to holding "free, fair and transparent elections" and called on the political parties in the Kurdistan Region to adhere to the new date of election.

The US, French, Italian and Dutch consulates in Erbil respectively have tweeted, expressing their support for the date of the elections, and view holding the elections as the implementation of democratic principles in the Kurd-

istan Region. Furthermore, the UN Mission in Iraq also expresses its support for the date of the elections and showed its readiness to support.

Kurdistan Region President Nechirvan Barzani has officially announced June 10, 2024 as the date of the Kurdistan Region's parliamentary elections.

The US Consulate welcomes announcement of election date by President Nechirvan Barzani, and stated that they support free and fair elections, "which are vital for a healthy democracy and the future of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region" the statement added.

Moreover, the Italian Consulate in Erbil welcomes the decision of Nechirvan Barzani's call for holding the parliamentary elections and urges all parties to keep the process free and fair and in an orderly manner.

Claudio Cordone, the deputy UN envoy also emphasized the United Nation's readiness to provide support as requested, hoping that "no more obstacles" are ahead to hold the election.

The French and Dutch consulates also tweeted, showing their support for the announcement of the election date.

Kurdistan President discuss bilateral relations with presidents of Turkey, Bulgaria



Kurdistan Region President, Nechirvan Barzani, met with the Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Antalya to discuss bilateral relations and the regional situation.

According to a statement from the Kurdistan Region Presidency, the focus of both presidents' discussion was "enhancing the relationship and cooperation between Türkiye, Iraq, and the Kurdistan Region.

"They particularly emphasized the importance of trade and economic ties, and the political and security situation in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region," the statement read.

Additionally, the two leaders exchanged thoughts on the current tensions in the region and the ongoing developments in Gaza. They both highlighted the significance of collaborative efforts and diplomatic dialogue in peacefully resolving these issues.

The statement added that "the meeting addressed the shared concern of terrorism and other matters of mutual interest."

President Nechirvan Barzani visited Antalya, Turkey, to attend the Antalya Diplomacy Forum (ADF). Over the course of the three-day conference, the President will engage in a series of meetings, focusing on the discussion of international relations and the situation in the wider region.

Falah Mustafa, Special Assistant to President of the Kurdistan Region for Foreign Policy Affairs, in a press conference, stated that Turkish president is expected to visit the Kurdistan Region and Iraq after the municipality election is over in Turkey.

Mustafa stated that as the Kurdistan Region, they are happy about the visit as it will lead to enhanced Turkish relations with Iraq and the Kurdistan Region.

"The participants of the conference will delve into a wide range of topics, including war, terrorism, migration, the impact of climate change, natural disasters, and numerous other pressing issues. The discussions aim to foster a comprehensive understanding of these matters and explore potential solu-

tions," the Kurdistan Region Presidency said.

In another meeting, President Nechirvan Barzani met with Bulgarian President Rumen Radev to discuss enhancing the bilateral relations between Bulgaria, Iraq, and the Kurdistan Region across various sectors such as the economy, trade, culture, sports, tourism, and agriculture.

As per the Presidency statement, "both leaders discussed the potential for further collaboration between universities and in higher education, as well as for establishing direct flights between Bulgaria and Iraq, including the Kurdistan Region."

President Nechirvan Barzani emphasized the significant value that the Kurdistan Region places on its relationships with its European allies, the statement added, "expressing the Kurdistan Region's keen interest in expanding cooperation with Bulgaria, as an allied nation and a member of the European Union."

President Barzani: Democracy is threatened in Iraq, potential resurgence of ISIS if US forces withdraw

“Kurdistan Region never wanted, at any time, for there to be tense relations with Iran,” President Masoud Barzani.

In a pivotal interview held in Erbil with Radio Monte Carlo International, President Massoud Barzani, the influential leader of the KDP, provided insights into the complex web of issues facing the Kurdistan Region and Iraq at large. The discussion spanned a wide range of topics, including the internal affairs of the Kurdistan Region, its relationship with Iraq, the looming US troop pull-out, and the intricate ties with neighboring nations.

Monte Carlo: Let's start with a question about what's happening. After a year and a half in Mr. Sudan's government, in which you participate, how do you evaluate the government's work or your role within the federal government?

President Masoud Barzani: Our participation in Mr. Sudan's government was based on a political agreement, forming a state administration coalition based on this political agreement. What we observe is that Mr. Sudan wants to implement the political agreement reached between the parties. However, at the same time, we see real obstacles facing him. We supported him and will continue to support him to implement what we agreed upon, but he faces real difficulties.

Monte Carlo: What kind of difficulties are these?

President Masoud Barzani: Difficulties preventing him from implementing the agreement reached between the parties.

Monte Carlo: Yes, preventing him... I mean, from certain parties... Are you accusing specific parties?

President Masoud Barzani: I don't want to specify a particular party, but parties are trying to hinder the work of the federal government... very clear.

Monte Carlo: Yes, are you comfortable working within this government? I mean, your primary allies withdrew, like the Sadrist... Also, there are marginalized ones like Mr. Al-Halbousi. I mean, are you comfortable or concerned today?

President Masoud Barzani: Honestly, we are concerned. Concerned because democracy is threatened in Iraq, a real threat.

Monte Carlo: Is the threat coming from within or from outside?

President Masoud Barzani: From within and from outside.

Monte Carlo: Many news reports talk about difficulties in the region, especially regarding the relationship between Erbil and Sulaymaniyah. I mean, the relationship between the two competing parties in the Kurdistan Region, despite all past differences, but you used to go united to Baghdad. Today, you go divided. How can we explain the state of

division in the region?

President Masoud Barzani: This is indeed a regrettable situation. But honestly, there is a disagreement on strategic issues... on strategic goals. If it were a disagreement on tactical issues, it would be very easy. Nevertheless, we try and make every effort to overcome this problem and work to unify the Kurdish front as it was.

Monte Carlo: If we want to talk about strategic issues, it may be a broad topic. But what are the main obstacles to Kurdish unity, for example?

President Masoud Barzani: We cannot compromise on the existence of the region. We cannot cooperate with those who seek to dismantle the region, nor ally with those who want to end it. This is a strategic issue.

Monte Carlo: Yes, and in your opinion, who is actively attempting or aiming for this goal?

President Masoud Barzani: Very clear, of course.

Monte Carlo: Let's be more direct. You were born in Iranian Kurdistan, and your relationship with Iran has been relatively good. However, there has been a noticeable deterioration recently. Iran accuses you of providing shelter to its enemies. How do you respond to these accusations?

President Masoud Barzani: These are baseless accusations. Iran knows, more than anyone else, that these accusations are baseless. Yes, I was born in Mahabad, and we never wanted, at any time, for there to be tense relations with Iran. We did not allow the region to be a threat to Iran's security.

Since 2020 and 2021, Erbil, as a city and province, has been subjected to 143 drone or ballistic missile attacks by Iran or its followers. These crimes are always justified by claiming the presence of international intelligence centers, specifically Mossad or Kurdish opposition in Kurdistan. If there were a Mossad headquarters, they wouldn't insist on striking it.

The Iranian opposition has been present for 50 years and based on a tripartite agreement between the federal government, the regional government, and Iran, in response to the Kurdish Iranian opposition, all their forces were withdrawn from border areas and returned to residential areas on the outskirts of Erbil. This was based on an agreement.

Therefore, Iran's accusations are truly baseless. We never wanted, at any time, for relations to tense with Iran. However, we also wonder why Iran chose this approach.

Monte Carlo: Has the federal government done what is necessary in response to what happened



President Masoud Barzani during his interview with French radio station Monte Carlo, Feb. 27, 2024.

PHOTO: Radio Monte Carlo

in Erbil?

President Masoud Barzani: It moved, but in reality, the response was not at the level of the committed crime.

Monte Carlo: The current controversy in Iraq revolves around the issue of the withdrawal of coalition forces. Let's be more explicit: the withdrawal of Americans from Iraq. Does this concern the Kurds?

President Masoud Barzani: Perhaps the same scenario that happened in 2011 when the US forces withdrew and withdrew with coalition forces is repeating. After a while, we saw ISIS, occupying almost a third of Iraq. If it weren't for the support of the coalition, the situation would be different. There was an agreement between the federal government, the US, and the coalition, and this agreement has been in effect for 10 years. Perhaps this agreement needs review, but this is within the jurisdiction of the federal government and the relevant authorities, not the factions or groups. It is a crucial issue related to all Iraqis, and one party cannot make any decisions on this matter.

Monte Carlo: Internally, there are economic difficulties in the region. There is popular discontent regarding the delayed salaries of employees, coinciding with the suspension of oil exports from the Kurdistan Region. How do you view the recent decisions of the federal court regarding salaries and the region's revenues?

President Masoud Barzani: Unfortunately, all the decisions of the federal court are overwhelmingly biased against the region. For your information, this court is not a constitutional court. It was formed during the time of Bremer and is now playing the roles of the judicial, legislative, and executive branches. I believe the federal court has exceeded its powers and fundamental duties. Its decisions are unfair and unjust, overwhelmingly against the region.

Monte Carlo: Mr. President, I want to touch quickly on a point that raises concerns for some of your friends in the West, if I may express it that way. Does the third

generation of Kurdish politicians, after the founding generation and your generation that knew both armed struggle and negotiations, have the capability to face all the challenges the region is currently experiencing?

President Masoud Barzani: A beautiful question. I also had the same concerns, but during the war against ISIS, we suffered for about two months. However, a new generation emerged after that, more resilient, more experienced, and with stronger determination. Yes, there is a new generation, and we cannot say that it has not been influenced by technological advancements and the developments that occurred worldwide. But now there is a trained generation equipped with weapons, thought, and determination. So, I say with all honesty, we are not afraid, and we have hundreds of thousands of youth who may surpass what the first and second generations achieved.

Monte Carlo: Very good. So, five years have passed since the historic referendum you organized regarding the Kurdish right to self-determination. What actually happened was a deterioration in relations with the central government. But is federalism considered a practical idea in the countries that know it in this region?

President Masoud Barzani: After the fall of the regime in 2003, the Kurdistan Parliament decided to adopt federalism and establish relations with Baghdad on this basis. I spent long periods in Baghdad after the fall of the regime, and during the drafting of the constitution as well, we worked diligently and sincerely to build a democratic, pluralistic, federal Iraq.

After a while, we noticed that federalism... some do not believe in it. Even the Constitution retreated from what we agreed upon. The preamble of the constitution states that commitment to this constitution guarantees the unity of Iraq. The constitution was violated. If federalism were practical and committed to the Constitution, we wouldn't have gone for

the referendum.

Monte Carlo: How do you see the future of Iraq?

President Masoud Barzani: Either Iraq adopts what has been agreed upon and returns to democracy and basic principles—participation, consensus, balance—then it is possible to save Iraq from the crisis it is going through. But monopolizing power and seizing everything by a specific group, entity, or component will lead Iraq towards an abyss. Returning to democracy, the constitution, and basic principles of partnership, consensus, and balance is essential.

Monte Carlo: Yes, Mr. President, you've mentioned that the friend of the Kurds is the mountains today. Who are the friends of the Kurds?

President Masoud Barzani: The mountain, plus many friends around the world.

Monte Carlo: Who are they?
President Masoud Barzani: Many... they exist.

Monte Carlo: Does it include relations with neighboring countries?

President Masoud Barzani: There are Arab countries, for example, with the Arab nations, with the West, with America, with the whole world, with the East... I mean, thankfully, we have many friends.

Monte Carlo: The support for the Kurdish cause remains as it was.

President Masoud Barzani: There is understanding, there is support, but, in reality, it is not at the required level. Sometimes, a certain event comes that overshadows all other events, such as the war in Ukraine, and the war in Gaza. Sometimes, interests shift from one place to another.

Monte Carlo: Kurdish leader President Masoud Barzani, the head of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, thank you for providing this opportunity for Monte Carlo International, and thank you for this interview.

President Masoud Barzani: Thank you... to Monte Carlo.

In the heart of Washington, PM Barzani charts a new course for Kurdistan-US relations

In a significant diplomatic overture, Prime Minister Masrour Barzani of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) embarked on an official visit to Washington, DC, on February 24, 2024, in response to a prestigious invitation. The visit, aimed at fostering deeper ties between the Kurdistan Region and the United States, unfolded as a multifaceted engagement covering economic opportunities, security collaborations, and crucial diplomatic dialogues.

Prime Minister Barzani's diplomatic visit to Washington signifies a pivotal moment in the enduring relationship between the Kurdistan Region and the United States. By engaging in high-level talks with key US officials, Prime Minister Barzani has not only solidified existing ties but has also laid the groundwork for a fortified strategic partnership.

High-Level Dialogues:

Prime Minister Barzani's meetings with high-profile US officials underscored the gravity of the diplomatic engagement. The visit included discussions with US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan at the White House, where Sullivan reiterated the United States' support for a strong Kurdistan and the constitutional rights of the Kurdish people. In a tweet, Prime Minister Barzani thanked Jake Sullivan for the frank exchange and ideas, underlining the longstanding partnership rooted in shared values.

Additionally, Prime Minister Barzani met with US Senior Advisor on Energy and Investment Amos Hochstein, discussing the resumption of oil exports from the Kurdistan Region. Productive talks centered around ways to accelerate this process, with a shared acknowledgment that the lack of exports was causing significant financial losses.

The White House Coordinator for Middle East and North Africa Affairs, Brett McGough, engaged in a dialogue with Prime Minister Barzani, highlighting the importance of maintaining security and stability in the Kurdistan Region. The discussions delved into the latest developments in Iraq and the broader region, with both



sides emphasizing the respect for constitutional and federal structures.

In another significant meeting, Acting Deputy Secretary of Defense for Defense Policy Sasha Baker emphasized the longstanding strategic relationship between the United States and the Kurdistan Regional Government. Discussions included the threat posed by Iranian militias and ISIS in the region, reaffirming the commitment to coordinate and support long-term security efforts.

In an official statement, Department of Defense Spokesman Lt. Col. David Herndon detailed the meeting between Prime Minister Barzani and Acting Deputy Secretary of Defense Sasha Baker at the Pentagon. The discussions included the recent steps regarding the Peshmerga forces, internal unity within Kurdistan, and ongoing efforts to counter the threat of ISIS.

Strategic Vision:

Prime Minister Barzani's meeting with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was emblematic of the strategic vision both nations share. Blinken, acknowledging the Kurdistan Region's crucial role as a partner, expressed US support for maintaining

security, peace, and stability. Discussions delved into common interests, resolving issues with the federal government, and the constitutional rights and budgetary entitlements of the Kurdish people.

"During the meeting, Secretary of State Blinken and Prime Minister Barzani delved into the critical facets of the US-Kurdistan Region partnership. Their discourse centered on the bilateral commitment to regional security and shared values, encompassing principles of good governance and the unwavering respect for human rights," State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller stated.

Military Cooperation and Security Dynamics:

The security landscape, particularly in light of the persistent threat from ISIS and regional tensions, took center stage during Prime Minister Barzani's visit. Peshmerga Minister Shorsh Ismail highlighted the enduring strategic cooperation between Peshmerga forces and the US military. The US commitment to providing military assistance and continuous training for Peshmerga forces showcased a shared determination to ensure regional stability.

Economic Horizons:

Central to the discussions was the exploration of economic opportunities within the Kurdistan Region. Energy expert Matthew Zais, shedding light on the vast potential, particularly emphasized the diversification prospects in the agricultural sector. Speaking of the robust relationship with the US Chamber of Commerce, Zais predicted a surge in US investors in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq after the Prime Minister's visit.

Prime Minister Barzani, in a reception organized by the US Chamber of Commerce, expressed gratitude for the historical friendship and support from the United States. His speech highlighted not only the investment potential but also underscored the pivotal role the Kurdistan Region could play in industrializing agriculture, becoming a crucial food supplier for Iraq, and even expanding into global markets.

Oil Exports and Global Influence:

The resumption of oil exports from the Kurdistan Region emerged as a critical focal point during the discussions between the high-ranking Kurdish and American officials.

Matthew Zais, the energy expert, pointed out that the United States, with its diplomatic clout, could play a crucial role in overcoming hurdles posed by certain factions in Baghdad. The potential impact of the region's oil exports on global political stability and oil prices was emphasized, reinforcing the urgency of US involvement.

Financial Reforms and Digital Transformation:

The KRG delegation's meetings with US Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, Brian Nelson delved into the intricacies of financial reforms and the digitization of public services in the KRG. Prime Minister Barzani showcased the ambitious reform agenda of the ninth cabinet, particularly focusing on the banking and digital payments sector called "My Account". This aligns with the Kurdistan Region's commitment to modernizing its financial infrastructure, inviting potential collaboration with US institutions.

In a social media update, Prime Minister Barzani lauded the exchange of ideas with @UnderSecT-FI Brian Nelson, expressing optimism about the transformative year ahead

for the Kurdistan Region. He emphasized the imminent positive changes that would directly benefit the citizens.

Foreign Policy Realignment:

Foreign Policy Magazine provided a nuanced perspective on the evolving US foreign policy, citing a renewed focus on Kurdistan as a strategic move. The article suggested that the United States should consolidate its presence in the region, especially in the face of growing Iranian influence. The recommendation resonated with the idea that a stable Kurdistan Region would contribute significantly to broader regional stability.

Optimism and Future Prospects:

Prime Minister Barzani's engagement with the high-profile US officials reflected optimism about the future. His interactions showcased not only a shared commitment to regional security but also a concrete plan for economic growth and stability. The Prime Minister's outreach to US companies and investors demonstrated the Kurdistan Region's openness to collaboration and emphasized its unique position as an investment destination.

The Foreign Policy magazine, analyzing the broader implications of the visit, highlighted the potential for a shift in US foreign policy towards the Kurdistan Region. The article argued that focusing on Kurdistan's stability aligns with US interests and urged continued US presence in the region.

As Prime Minister Barzani concluded his visit, there was a palpable sense of progress and mutual understanding between the two strategic partners. The strategic dialogues, economic discussions, and reaffirmation of security partnerships painted a comprehensive picture of the evolving relationship between the Kurdistan Region and the United States. The commitment to shared values, regional stability, and economic prosperity stood out as the pillars of this burgeoning alliance.

Minorities Unhappy Following Iraqi Federal Court's Ruling on Quota Seats

The Iraqi federal court on 21 February ruled against the 11 dedicated seats for the minorities in the Kurdistan Region parliament, calling it "unconstitutional". This decision has ignited a wave of discontent among the Kurdistan's ethnic and religious minorities. The leaders and representatives of the minorities argue that the ruling jeopardizes the principles of coexistence and partnership in the country.

The ruling is expected to reshape the equation and dynamics of the upcoming parliamentary election in Kurdistan. According to the ruling, Kurdistan Region will be divided into four electoral constituents instead of a single one, which will also affect the number of votes needed to secure a seat in each governorate.

The Federal Supreme Court ruled on several appeals filed against several articles of the Kurdistan Parliamentary Election Law. One of articles the court ruled as unconstitutional was the dedicated 11 quota seats in the Kurdistan Parliament for the minorities: five for Christians, five others for the Turkmen and one for the Armenians. The court also ruled to the division the constituencies into at least four constituencies in Kurdistan Region, in which case, it's speculated that Sulaimani might have 39 seats, Erbil 35 seats, Duhok 24 seats and Halabja two seats.

"A blow to the coexistence"

The ethnic and religious minorities in Kurdistan

Region reacted swiftly on the decision and expressed their deep concern over to the ruling and considered it as a blow to the coexistence in Iraq.

Zia Petros, an independent Christian politician in Kurdistan Region asserted that the court's ruling stands in direct opposition to the principles of coexistence of the components, particularly the Christians. Zia Petros, who is also former head of the Human Rights Commission in Kurdistan, argues that the federal court chose the "worst" option in the decision. Furthermore, Petros revealed that there has been a proposal suggesting Christians contemplate boycotting the upcoming elections in response to the ruling.

While he praised the coexistence, tolerance and diverse participation system of all people and components in the Kurdistan Region, he believes that the federal court's ruling will impact these values negatively. "There is a good international reflection in the political structure of the Kurdistan Region, which is taken as a good example in the Middle East" he added.

Furthermore, Zia Petros voiced his discontent with "Baghdad's system of governance" which he believes has retreated from the principles that it has set in its constitution. "The Iraqi state has created this situation and we as components are very concerned" Petros emphasized. Petros explicitly labeled the federal court's decision as a detri-

mental blow to the country's components, and as a decision against the remaining of components in their country, especially Christians.

Yervant Nisan Markos Aminian, an Armenian politician and a former member of the Kurdistan Region Parliament, warns against the migration of Armenians in the Kurdistan Region following the federal court's decision "The abolition of the Armenian quota seat can be interpreted as a repressive move," he said.

The ruling is "unjust" and "politically motivated"

Romeo Hakkari, the general secretary of the Bet Nahrain Party, said in a statement to the media outlets that the federal court's ruling was "unjust, unconstitutional and violation of the minorities' rights". In a statement to the media, Hakkari asserted that the ruling appears to be politically motivated, representing a concerning regression of democratic principles within the country. Hakkari further criticized the disagreements between the Kurdistan political parties, which he believes have contributed in causing the ruling by the court.

Romeo's party was among other 5 Christian (Chaldean, Assyrian and Syriac) parties in Kurdistan Region which held an urgent meeting, following the decision by the Iraqi federal court to abolish the dedicated parliamentary seats for the minorities in Kurdistan Region. Hakkari stated following

the meeting that the parties have not made a decision yet and are waiting and observing the situation to make a decision later on.

The issue to be raised to the international community

Anu Jawhar, head of Hammurabi Coalition, which constitutes a number of Chaldean, Assyrian and Syriac parties, stated that they will make all efforts to restore their rights. The coalition, along with other political parties raised the issue in letters submitted to the country's representatives in the Kurdistan Region, expressing their concern to the recent ruling of the federal court. "The federal court has committed a great injustice against the minorities in the Kurdistan Region, it is a violation of human rights principles, and it is a coup on the constitution," he said. Additionally, he revealed the coalition's intention to raise the issue to the international community.

The Hammurabi Coalition views the Federal Cour's annulment of the quota seats as a "flagrant violation of the constitution," emphasizing that the Iraqi constitution safeguards the rights of all components in Iraq. According to the statement, this decision undermines the foundations of democracy, pluralism and peaceful ethnic and religious coexistence, which the political experience in the Kurdistan Region was based on. The statement further characterizes the ruling as a dangerous

indication of diminishing democracy, human rights and national partnership, which are the basic principles on which the political process in Iraq after 2003 was based.

Kurdistan's political parties against the ruling

The Kurdistan's political parties seem to be on the same page regarding the ruling by the Iraqi federal court, however, some hoped that the matter had been solved internally before reaching this level.

Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) announced in a statement that the Iraq's federal court's ruling comes against the spirit of constitution and the constitutional rights of Kurdistan Region. The KDP's political bureau emphasized in the statement on the party's support to the rights of the components. The statement added that the rulings were against the spirit of the constitution, the constitutional rights of Kurdistan Region, principle of federalism and the principle of separation of the powers which are ratified in the Iraqi constitution.

Meanwhile, Kurdistan Islamic Union (KIU) also voiced disagreement with the decision of Iraq's court regarding the minorities' quotas through their spokesperson. Khalil Ibrahim, KIU's spokesperson stated that it was never their demand or project [to abolish the dedicated quota seats in the Kurdistan Parliament]. Ibrahim argued that the matter should have been solved inter-

nally before taking it into the federal court.

Arez Abdulla, the member of Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK)'s leadership stated in an interview with a Kurdish media outlet that his party did not expect such a decision from the court. PUK, which originally filed the complaint against the Kurdistan Parliament's minority quote in the Iraqi federal court, however, is content with the decision, according to Abdulla.

The addition 11 quota seats for the minorities in Kurdistan Region Parliament occurred in two stages. In 1992, five seats were added to the Christians with a decision made by the Supreme Political Council of the Kurdistan Front. And later, in the 2009 amendment to the Electoral Law, it introduced five seats for Turkmen and one for Armenians.

As per the ruling of the federal court, the minorities are not required to participate in the elections with separate lists and can only win seats on the basis of votes. This shift raises concerns about the potential challenges these minorities may face in securing parliamentary representation. Given the likelihood of increased competition from the lists of other parties that may win more votes, there is a growing apprehension that minorities might face difficulties in winning seats following the ruling by the federal court.

By Shvan Goran

Iraqi government to compensate 14,000 Yezidi families

The Iraqi Prime Minister has approved a number of strategic projects for Shingal, including the start of compensation of 14,000 Yezidi families with the hope that it will encourage the families to return to their homes.

Khalaf Shingali, an advisor to the Iraqi PM for Yezidi Affairs stated that PM Mohammed Shiaa' al-Sudani has agreed to open a university in Shingal and has allocated 200 hectares of land which will include a large university compound.

Opening a new university according to Shingali will

open many new job opportunities for the people of the district and will have positive impact on the education sector in the area as well as the livelihood of the people.

According to the PM's Advisor, the government has also approved the opening of branches of three banks in the districts as well as constructing a 50-bed hospital in Snune sub-district and 100-bed hospital in Shingal district and construction and renovation of roads and schools.

During the war on ISIS, where ISIS terrorists in-

vaded Shingal, 500, 000 people from the area fled to the Kurdistan Region, with 330,00 currently living in the camps and have not been to return to their homes due to the security threats and lack of government services.

On August 3, 2014, ISIS militants took over the Shingal district of northern Iraq, committing genocide against the Yazidi minority. Thousands fled their homes as the militants systematically killed men and older women and enslaved younger women and children. In the first days of

the genocide, 1,293 people were killed and 6,417 people were abducted.

The Iraqi Prime Minister has decided to start reparation process of Yezidi families who were affected by the ISIS war in 2014, the government advisor said, adding that 1000 families have completed their paperwork and will soon receive the compensation.

The Kurdistan Regional Government and Iraqi government reached a deal in October of 2020 over the governance and security of Shingal to resolve a number of issues preventing its dis-

placed people from returning to the area.

Under the Erbil-Baghdad agreement, security for the troubled region will be Baghdad's responsibility. The federal government will have to establish a new armed force recruited from the local population and expel fighters from the PKK and their affiliated groups.

Khalaf Shingali stated that so far 1000 policemen have been recruited to take charge of the security in the district, while preparations is ongoing to recruit 500 more.

Regarding the return of

the displaced people to their homes in Shingal and surrounding areas, Shingali said that forcing the IDPs to return is not a good option, saying that all people would like to return but the final decision is made by the people themselves.

The Iraqi government has decided to close all IDP camps by July 30, including the ones in the Kurdistan Region, however, some IDPs in the camps refuse to return to their homes.

Strengthening bilateral ties: Armenian President's historic visit to Kurdistan Region unveils multifaceted collaboration

In a diplomatic breakthrough, Armenian President Vahagn Khachaturyan's visit to Erbil to meet with President Masoud Barzani, Kurdistan Democratic Party's leader, and Kurdistan Region President Nechirvan Barzani marked a pivotal moment in fostering comprehensive ties between the two sides. These historic meetings delved into various dimensions of collaboration, spanning political, economic, educational, and humanitarian realms, signaling a commitment to a robust and multifaceted partnership.

President Vahagn Khachaturyan's delegation, comprising high-ranking officials, engaged in extensive discussions covering diverse aspects of cooperation. The Kurdish media outlets shed light on the broad agenda, encompassing political, economic, educational, and humanitarian fronts. These deliberations underscored the commitment to building a holistic relationship that goes beyond political discourse.

According to a statement issued by Barzani's headquarters, the Armenian President praised the Kurdistan Region's progress and stability, as well as President Barzani's role in fostering a peaceful environment and coexistence among Kurdish communities, as well as combating terrorism and extremism.

President Barzani cordially greeted the Armenian President, citing historical ties between the Kurdish and Armenian people, and commended the Armenian President and the nation for protecting the rights of Kurds residing in Armenia. "Both sides agreed that



peace is the only way to solve the problems of the peoples of the region and future generations," the statement stated.

The economic synergy between Armenia and the Kurdistan Region took center stage, with annual trade volumes exceeding an impressive \$250 million. Armenia, recognizing the Kurdistan Region as a strategic gateway for exporting commodities to the Middle East, has actively fostered commercial relations for the past two years. The Armenian consulate in Erbil played a pivotal role in nurturing diplomatic ties, facilitating economic collaboration, and contributing to the annual trade volume.

Cultural and educational exchanges have further enriched this bilateral relationship. Armenians residing in the Kurdistan Region and Kurds in Armenia have contributed to a unique cultural tapestry. Armenia has also emerged

as an educational hub for Kurdish students, with over 400 pursuing their studies in private colleges in Armenia by the end of 2023. This educational collaboration underscores the commitment to mutual growth and understanding, fostering people-to-people connections.

The meeting between the leaders of both sides affirmed their shared commitment to addressing regional challenges through diplomatic channels and upholding the rights of minority populations, demonstrating a human-centered approach to foreign relations.

The historical meeting between President Masoud Barzani and President Khachaturyan in Pirmam unfolded with expressions of gratitude for the enduring ties between Armenian and Kurdish populations. President Barzani, extending a warm greeting, underscored the significance of adhering to constitution-

al principles as the linchpin for resolving conflicts between the Kurdistan Region and the Iraqi Federal Government. This commitment to constitutional principles reflects a shared belief in the rule of law as the foundation for lasting solutions, highlighting the importance of legal frameworks in international relations.

As part of the ongoing discussions, both leaders expressed optimism about the potential establishment of direct air travel between Erbil and Yerevan. This forward-looking initiative could open new avenues for diplomatic, economic, and cultural exchanges, further solidifying the bilateral relationship. The prospect of direct air travel not only enhances connectivity but also symbolizes a commitment to facilitating easier people-to-people movement, reinforcing the ties between the two sides.

The visit wasn't merely a diplomatic formality; it

embodied a strategic vision for the future. President Barzani's acknowledgment of President Khachaturyan's role in fostering harmony and stability in the Kurdistan Region, combatting terrorism, and promoting cohabitation among communities resonated with a shared commitment to regional peace. This acknowledgment of shared values and common objectives sets the tone for collaborative efforts in addressing regional challenges.

The expansive nature of discussions, attended by Deputy Presidents and relevant ministers from the Kurdistan Regional Government, reflected a collective effort to explore opportunities for collaboration across various sectors. Trade, investment, the private sector, medicine, and tourism were among the key sectors discussed, highlighting the intention to diversify and deepen the economic ties between

the two sides. The involvement of key decision-makers and experts from both sides suggests a strategic and meticulous approach to crafting a roadmap for bilateral cooperation.

In conclusion, the visit by Armenian President Vahagn Khachaturyan to the Kurdistan Region stands as a watershed moment, symbolizing the commitment to a comprehensive and enduring partnership. As both nations navigate the complexities of the contemporary geopolitical landscape, this strengthened alliance positions them to face challenges collaboratively and embrace opportunities for shared growth and prosperity. The multifaceted collaboration unveiled during this historic visit sets the stage for a new chapter in Armenian-Kurdistan relations, grounded in mutual respect, shared interests, and a vision for a prosperous future.

Kurds in Armenia

Despite discrepancies in reported numbers, the 2011 census indicated that the Kurdish population in Armenia was 37,470. However, the Kurdish Institute in Geneva suggests a significantly larger figure, estimating the Kurdish population to be around 700,000.

Since the 18th century, Kurds have migrated to Armenia through the Ararat Mountains and have settled in the region. Over time, Kurdish representatives have held seats in the Armenian Parliament, demonstrating a growing political presence. Additionally, there is a dedicated seat for Kurds in the Armenian Parliament for Yazidis.



History of China-Kurdistan relations goes back thousands of years says Chinese Consul General

According to Liu Jun, the Consul General of China in Erbil, the historical connection between China and Kurdistan spans many millennia.

According to Jun, the establishment of the Chinese Consulate General in Erbil has led to a significant and swift development in all aspects of their bilateral ties.

We assert that the diplomatic ties between China

and Iraq include a significant aspect of their bilateral relations, particularly concerning the Kurdistan Region, he said. "We established a Consulate General in Erbil a decade ago, and our relations were undoubtedly excellent prior to that," he said. According to him, the historical relations between China and Kurdistan can be traced back to the Silk Road era, spanning a peri-

od of 1,000 to 2,000 years. He added that following the establishment of the consulate in Erbil, Chinese diplomatic ties have seen significant growth across all fields. Both sides have engaged in many high-level visits. There has been a significant improvement in the interactions. As an example, Salahaddin University established a department dedicated to the study of

the Chinese language. The Kurdistan Region has officially established a Chinese Consulate General, making it the first region to do so. Additionally, Salahaddin University has become the first institution in Iraq to establish a department dedicated to teaching the Chinese language. He expressed a strong sense of pride in the existing connection.

Fewer migrate from Kurdistan Region despite challenges



By **Jawad Qadir**

The Civil Organizations' Network (CON) in the Kurdistan Region announced earlier this year that there has been a significant decrease in the number of young people emigrating from the Kurdistan region to Europe and other global destinations in 2023. During a press briefing in Erbil, the organization revealed that in the previous three years, around 36,000 to 38,000 young individuals from the Kurdistan region had chosen to relocate to Europe. However, in 2023, this number dramatically dropped to only 1,030 individuals.

CON attributed this sharp decline in youth emigration to several factors. Firstly, it mentioned the ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia, which has created a sense of instability and uncertainty in Europe. This has made potential migrants hesitant to leave their home country and seek a better life abroad.

Additionally, the organization pointed out the economic recession in Europe as another significant factor. The financial downturn has resulted in limited job opportunities and a decrease in the overall quality of life in many European countries. As a result, young people from the Kurdistan region may have reconsidered their plans to emigrate, opting to stay and seek employment opportunities within their own region instead.

Furthermore, CON highlighted the heightened crackdown by Turkish authorities on illicit immigration activities. Turkey has long been a transit country for migrants from the Middle East and North Africa, including those from the Kurdistan region. However, in recent years, Turkish authorities have intensified their efforts to combat illegal immigration, making it more difficult for individuals to cross the border and continue their journey to Europe.

Overall, the notable reduction in youth emigration from the Kurdistan region to Europe and other global destinations in 2023 can be attributed to a combination of factors, including the conflict in Ukraine, the economic recession in Europe, and the increased enforcement of immigration laws by Turkish authorities. This shift in migration patterns may have significant implications for the Kurdistan region, as it suggests that more young people are choosing to stay and contribute to the development of their own communities rather than seeking opportunities abroad.

According to the latest report from the Kurdistan Region Statistics Office (2023), the population of the region is 6,171,083 people. The age group of 15-29 makes up over 28% of the total population, with 1,727,903 individuals falling within this range. Additionally, 35% of the population, or 2,159,879 people, are under the age of 15. This highlights the significant impact and presence of the youth demographic in the region for the next 20 years.

Canada celebrates 10th anniversary presence in the Kurdistan Region



The Office of Canada Embassy in Erbil celebrated its 10th anniversary establishment in Erbil, with the hope of that the next stage of Canada presence would be build upon the current progress.

The Head of Canada Office in Erbil, Tammy Ames, in a speech during the ceremony, said that "Canada's presence in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq has been defined by a multifaceted approach, encompassing humanitarian aid, capacity building initiatives and military cooperation.

She added that Canada Armed Forces have played a role in training and advising the Kurdistan Region Peshmerga forces, equipping them with the skills and resources necessary to confront extremist threats and maintain stability in the Region.

Wearing a Kurdish dress at the ceremony, the Head of Canadian diplomatic mission, Tammy Ames, added that the next stage of Canada's presence in the Kurdistan Region "must build upon the progress achieved thus far while adapting to evolving realities on the ground."

With the presence of Sidad Barzani, representing the KDP President Masoud Barzani, Safen Dizayee, Head of the KRG Department of Foreign Relations, Canada Ambassa-

dor to Iraq, Kathy Bunka and other diplomats and government officials, Canada Embassy Office in Erbil celebrated its 10th anniversary.

Head the KRG Department of Foreign Relations congratulated Canada for its 10th anniversary and expressed gratitude for the Canada's presence over the past 10 years, stating that the history of relations between Iraq and Canada goes back to many years ago and thanked Canada for supporting the Kurdistan Region in different areas, particularly in the fight against ISIS.

In a meeting with the Canada Ambassador, the Kurdistan Region President, stressed on enhancing relations between the Kurdistan Region and Canada, hoping that Canada could elevate the level of diplomatic representation in the Region.

In September, Tom Kmeic, a Canadian MP of the Conservative Party and Co-Founder of the Parliamentary Friends of the Kurds group in the Canadian parliament, visited the Kurdistan Region with a delegation of Canadian MPs and commended the Region as a beacon of safety and stability, explaining that his party aims to expand the Canadian representation in Erbil to a consulate if it emerges victorious in the next Canadian elections.

Turkey ready to re-export Kurdistan crude oil

Falah Mustafa, Special Assistant to President of the Kurdistan Region for Foreign Policy Affairs, stated that Turkey is ready to re-export the Kurdistan Region crude oil through its territory.

In a press conference held in Antalya, the Kurdistan Region Presidency official said that Turkey has expressed readiness to re-export oil from the Region to the Ceyhan port, stating that the matter is now in Baghdad's hands.

He mentioned that once a final agreement between Erbil and Baghdad was concluded, oil exports from the Kurdistan Region will resume.

On March 2, The Association of the Petroleum Industry of Kurdistan (APIKUR) denied claims by Iraqi government officials that an agreement has been reached among Baghdad, Erbil, and international oil companies to resume oil exports through the Iraq-Türkiye Pipeline (ITP).

APIKUR statement added that "recently there have been several unfounded media statements by senior GoI officials that a deal has been reached for IOCs to resume exports through the ITP. We do not understand the motivation for such misinformation but note

that Iraq is reportedly losing \$1 billion for each month that ITP remains closed."

As per the Iraqi Federal Court ruling, the Kurdistan Region stopped exporting its crude oil to the international market through Turkey since March 2023. Currently, Ankara and Baghdad are holding talks to find a mechanism to restart oil export from the Region's oil-fields to the international buyers.

Iraq is currently exporting crude oil only via its southern oil export terminals, with around 450,000 barrels per day (bpd) of exports from the Kurdistan Region oil fields shut in since March 2023 due to a dispute between Erbil and Baghdad over who should authorize and manage oil production and export in the Kurdistan Region.

Before the halt, the KRG was exporting 400,000 barrels a day through Turkey.

The loss in oil revenues, the KRG's main source of income, has worsened the financial situation and left the government unable to pay its public sector as the federal government delays money release from the Kurdistan Region's share in the national budget.

Kurdistan Epic Theater



The play "Kurdistan Epic" is a dramatic and musical national play. It is directed by Ahmad Mishkhati and composed by Alind Khayri, Shorsh Ghafouri is supervising the project. The play talks about the national struggle of the Kurds for freedom and independence of their homeland from ancient times to the present, under the leadership of prominent figures. The play starts with Kawa blacksmith and Zuhak time, Then the Kurdish struggle during the time of Sheikh Saeed and Qazi Mohammed, as well as Sheikh Abdul Salam Barzan, Mr. Ahmad and Mullah Mustafa Barzani and until October 16th ,2017, and during the time of Mr. President Massoud Barzani.

As part of the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Region's vision and mission to foster the arts, the Office of Initiatives and communications is sponsoring a national theatrical and musical piece called "Kurdistan Epic." The in-

vestment brothers Dindar and Ali Ibrahim Piling deserve recognition and gratitude for their patriotic adoption of the play's concept, financial assistance, and printing of all four parts. The goal of the Piling brothers' project was to produce a 90-minute theatrical production that would be the best in the Kurdistan Region in terms of artistic merit, text, and acting technique.

This play was written by (Halkat Idris Abid), who had it translated into the Kurdish Sorani dialect by (Shosh Ghafouri). It was subsequently translated into Arabic and English by (Shamal Akrayi) and (Hakeem Abdullah), then into Kurdish Latin alphabet by (Zinarê Malê). Directors, composers, and overseers of the production were artists, Ahmed Mishakhti and Alind Khayri. Over eighty-five people, comprising artists, students, and other notable figures, are involved in the play's performance.

By: Sara Sultan

Ceremony for the suffering of the night of the bombing of Erbil

On Tuesday 27/2/2024, in the Media hall of the Culture and Media Department of the PDK, in the presence of Omid Khoshnaw, Governor of Erbil, party and government officials, intellectuals and journalists, a ceremony was held for the suffering of the night of the bombing of Erbil and the victims of that incident entitled (My poured fingers become water) and, in which several poems, music and songs were performed.

After a minute of silence for the souls of the martyrs, the late Barzani and Mr.

Idris always remembered, Dr. Salar Osman, presented a poem and expressed the tragic incident.

The content of the ceremony was the presentation of music and songs under the supervision of artist (Hoshyar Karim) and the participation of several musicians, in which a number of passionate songs became a necklace of loyalty to this tragic event.

BY: Sara Sultan



One of the pioneers of Newroz theater is Anwar Mayi



Anwar Mayi, a Peshmerga martyr and writer from Amedi, was given honors. A ceremony was organized on Thursday, February 29, 2024, to launch the first issue of Chira magazine in association with Yad Cultural Institute. A large number of party, government, intellectuals, writers, journalists, and personalities from the area attended.

A minute of silence was observed at the start of the ceremony in memory of the Kurdistan people's martyrs who marched in support of their liberation.

The governor of the Amedi district, Warshin Salman, then gave a welcoming speech during which he congratulated Yadi Cultural Institute and first Chira magazine for commemorating Anwar Mayi, the martyr, and his hard-working family.

Then, in a speech, Dr. Salar Osman, the head of the Department of Culture and Media (PDK), said: "Today we honor one of the brightest stars in the Kurdish sky. We are honored to delve into the depths of life, products, and

sacrifices of this great man." Anwar Mayi's life and struggle were discussed, and it was clear that he and his family had played a crucial role in the lives of Kurds and Kurdistan as well as the triumph of his people.

As such, it is worthwhile to honor him each day and turn his fruitful writings into a lesson. As a result, in the first issue of Chira, we dedicate the third issue of the journal to the martyr Anwar Mayi.

Finally, Masoom, the martyr Anwar Mayi's son, gave a family message in which he expressed gratitude to Yadi Cultural Institute and Chira magazine for remembering them and honoring the sacrifice and struggle of their family and Anwar Mayi.

At the conclusion of the event, Baravan Hamdi, Deputy Minister of Martyrs and Anfal Victims, presented the Yad Cultural Foundation shield of honor to the poets' and martyrs' families.

By: Sara Sultan

Kurdistan Matters



By Dr. Tyler Fisher & Jones Hogsed

Uprising Day for a People Who Continue to Rise

This Tuesday, March 5, the Kurdistan Region observes the annual commemoration known as Uprising Day. A national holiday, it marks the first day of what became a month-long uprising against Saddam Hussein's regime in 1991, an inflection point in the broader struggle for Kurdish self-rule. Although the Iraqi military overpowered the Uprising in a matter of weeks, the movement succeeded in showing, with unmistakable clarity, what the Kurds could achieve when united in a common cause, and it established the groundwork for what would become the autonomous Kurdistan Region. We pause on the occasion of this Uprising Day to reflect on that momentous month and its aftermath, now more than three decades in the past but still consequential for our time.

At the crossroads of empires across millenia, the homeland of the Kurds has long been a region of ethnic erasure and volatile borders. Mulla Mustafa Barzani once described his people as "the orphans of the universe," and many Kurds have taken up this phrase as a poignant refrain. The twentieth century illustrates the truth of the description, as the Kurds sought a home among nations that too often seem bent upon their extermination. While March 5, 1991, was indeed a culmination of decades-long conflict, the Kurdish struggle for full independence continues.

When the 8-year-long war with Iran came to an end in 1988, Iraq's Baath regime renewed its efforts to repress the Kurdish freedom movement and did so by means of a genocidal campaign that included chemical weapons and wholesale slaughter of non-combatants. In addition to arbitrary imprisonment and forced displacement of entire villages, thousands of Kurdish men were pressed into the Popular Army controlled by the Baathists and forced to serve in Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

As the First Gulf War drew to a close, the defeat of Iraqi forces in Kuwait lit the fuse of the Kurds' pent-up rage. Saddam had poured resources and troops into Kuwait for what he infamously declared "the mother of all battles," and the Kurds, as well as Shi'ite insurgents in the south of Iraq, deemed their Baathist adversaries spread thin enough to strike. Emboldened by the circumstances, several factions of revolutionaries arose in Kurdistan, the most notable being the peshmerga. The peshmerga comprised a hodgepodge of groups, and a significant portion of these guerrilla fighters were defectors, or jash, from the Iraqi Army. Outraged at the relentless pogroms against their countrymen, they trekked homeward to aid the uprising.

The rebellion began on March 5 in the town of Raniya. As Baathist security agents swept through the town, hunting for jash, the locals were provoked to open conflict, mobbing the town's government buildings. The authorities barricaded themselves in the intelligence service headquarters, defending themselves for eight more

hours before the rebels broke through.

Any genuinely popular uprising has a degree of spontaneity, but the peshmerga and Kurdish political parties also coordinated the movement, and did so far more effectively than their Shia counterparts in the south of Iraq. From Raniya, the Uprising spread to Sulaymaniya, Erbil, Dohuk, and Zakho. The pattern of overthrow was similar to that in Raniya: masses of civilians would congregate in the streets, shouting anti-Baath slogans, then would attack the government offices of security forces, freeing political prisoners and securing caches of weapons in the process.

Within ten days, the Kurds had taken every city within the Kurdish sphere of influence except Kirkuk, a strategically vital epicenter in the struggle and the last city to be liberated. The Kurds held it for scarcely a week. Support for the Uprising was quickly deteriorating: Turkey vacillated between encouraging the rebellion and quietly watching events unfold, probably in hopes of asserting control over oil-rich areas after the conflict. The US-led Coal-

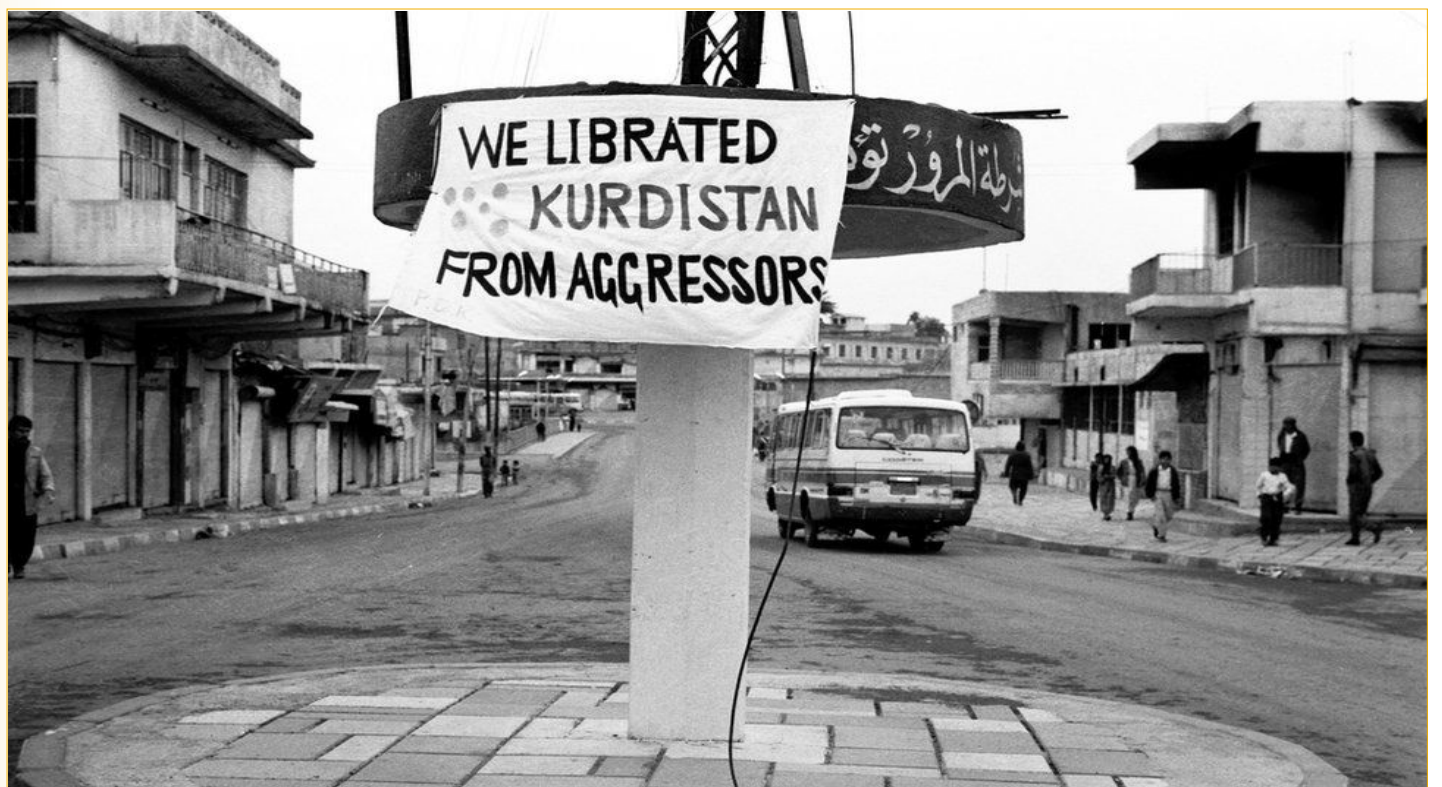
ition forces were concentrated in the south, shoring up the liberation of Kuwait. The Kurds stood alone, without a centralized Kurdish government, without sufficient provisions for the fighters. Their relative lack of weaponry was a key weakness which gave way to a swift defeat when Iraqi forces swarmed into the city in attack helicopters (which constituted an exemption to the no-fly zone restrictions) and deployed heavy artillery. Thousands of Kurds, civilians and soldiers alike, fled the urban areas into the mountains and wastelands along the Turkish and Iranian borders. Saddam's forces were merciless in their retaliation, and targeted the lines of fleeing refugees from helicopters.

The recapture of Kirkuk spelled the beginning of the end for the Uprising, leaving thousands of Kurds displaced and subjected to even greater persecution. The refugees who survived military attacks faced starvation and sub-zero temperatures without adequate shelter. The US Department of State estimates that between 500 to 1,000 Kurds died every day along the border. The

Baathist media crowed over "the complete crushing of acts of sedition, sabotage and rioting in all towns of Iraq." But what Saddam's propaganda dismissed as criminal unrest showed themselves to be more profoundly persistent.

In response to the atrocities inflicted on civilians, the United Nations ordered Iraq to desist, and the Coalition, goaded by international criticism, ultimately strengthened the terms of its no-fly zone and established a "safe haven" in Kurdistan, barring further aerial incursions. In the following months, Iraqi forces ceded control of major Kurdish cities, with the exceptions of Kirkuk and Mosul, which remain contested.

Kurdistan has endured the crucible of oppression for many years. The Uprising of 1991 and the ensuing campaigns of resistance exemplify the Kurds' indefatigability in the face of despotism. Their resilience and enduring quest for sovereign statehood deserves international attention, and their story should inspire other stateless peoples to rise up against those who would limit their liberties.



Iraq, world's largest oil reserves, Economic Importance, the Land of Potential and Opportunity

By *Dr. Mathew Jose*

Iraq, with its rich history, abundant natural resources, and strategic geographic location, holds immense economic significance regionally and globally. Despite facing challenges stemming from years of conflict, political instability, and economic fluctuations, Iraq's economic potential remains considerable. The economic importance of Iraq, examining its key sectors, resources, and potential for growth and development. Iraq is endowed with some of the world's largest oil reserves, estimated at over 140 billion barrels, making it one of the leading oil-producing countries globally. The oil sector is the backbone of Iraq's economy, accounting for the majority of government revenue and export earnings. Additionally, Iraq possesses significant natural gas reserves, offering opportunities for further development and investment in the energy sector. While the oil sector dominates Iraq's economy, efforts are underway to diversify and strengthen other sectors, including agriculture, manufacturing, construction, and services. Agriculture plays a vital role in Iraq's economy, with fertile lands along the Tigris and Euphrates rivers supporting the cultivation of crops such as wheat, barley, and rice. The manufacturing sector, including industries such as textiles, food processing, and construction materials, contributes to economic growth and employment generation.

Iraq's strategic geographic location at the crossroads of the Middle East provides it with significant economic advantages. Situated between the Persian Gulf and the Levant, Iraq serves as a critical transit route for trade and commerce, connecting the Gulf states with Turkey, Iran, and beyond. The ports of Basra and Umm Qasr facilitate maritime trade, while land routes traverse Iraq, linking it to neighboring countries and international markets. Despite challenges, Iraq offers lucrative investment opportunities across various sectors, including energy, infrastructure, telecommunications, and tourism. The government has implemented economic reforms to improve the business environment, attract foreign investment, and promote private sector participation. Additionally, reconstruction

efforts following years of conflict present opportunities for investment in infrastructure projects, housing, and urban development. Iraq boasts a young and growing population, with a sizable labor force that offers potential for economic development and productivity gains. Investing in education, vocational training, and skills development is crucial to harnessing the potential of Iraq's human capital and creating employment opportunities for its youth. Additionally, promoting entrepreneurship and innovation can foster a dynamic and vibrant business environment conducive to economic growth. Iraq faces several challenges on its path to economic development, including political instability, security concerns, corruption, infrastructure deficiencies, and institutional weaknesses. However, these challenges are accompanied by opportunities for reform, investment, and sustainable development.

Addressing governance issues, improving security, enhancing transparency, and fostering inclusive growth are essential for unlocking Iraq's economic potential and promoting prosperity for its citizens. Iraq's economic importance stems from its vast natural resources, strategic location, and potential for growth and development. Despite challenges, Iraq possesses the necessary assets and opportunities to emerge as a dynamic and resilient economy in the region. By leveraging its resources, investing in infrastructure and human capital, and implementing sound economic policies, Iraq can unlock its full economic potential and chart a path towards sustainable development and prosperity for its people. The oil sector serves as the cornerstone of Iraq's economy, playing a pivotal role in driving economic growth, generating government revenue, and shaping the country's geopolitical landscape. With vast reserves and a strategic geographic location, Iraq's oil sector holds immense importance regionally and globally. The dynamics of Iraq's oil sector, examining its significance, challenges, and future prospects. Abundant Reserves, Iraq boasts some of the largest proven oil reserves in the world, estimated at over 140



billion barrels. These reserves are concentrated primarily in the southern provinces around Basra, as well as in the Kirkuk region in the north. The abundance of oil reserves positions Iraq as a major player in the global oil market and provides a significant source of revenue for the country. Production and Export, Iraq is one of the leading oil-producing countries globally, with production levels fluctuating between 4 to 5 million barrels per day (bpd) in recent years. The majority of Iraq's oil production comes from fields in the southern part of the country, particularly the Basra Oil Fields. Iraq exports the majority of its crude oil, primarily via its southern ports in Basra and Umm Qasr, with a smaller portion exported through the Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline to Turkey.

Despite its vast potential, Iraq's oil sector faces several challenges, including security concerns, infrastructure deficiencies, bureaucratic obstacles, and political instability. Security threats from insur-

gent groups, sabotage, and attacks on oil infrastructure pose risks to production and export operations. Infrastructure constraints, such as inadequate pipeline capacity, storage facilities, and port facilities, limit Iraq's ability to maximize oil exports and revenue. Iraq's oil sector plays a central role in shaping the country's economy, politics, and society. With abundant reserves, significant production capacity, and strategic importance in the global oil market, Iraq's oil sector offers immense potential for growth and development. Addressing challenges related to security, infrastructure, governance, and investment climate is essential for unlocking Iraq's full potential and ensuring the sustainable development of its oil resources for the benefit of its citizens and the global economy.

Government Revenue, Oil exports constitute the main source of revenue for the Iraqi government, accounting for a significant portion of the national budget. Fluctuations in

oil prices on the global market directly impact government revenue and fiscal stability. Despite efforts to diversify the economy, Iraq remains heavily reliant on oil revenue to fund public expenditures, including infrastructure development, social services, and government salaries. Investment and Development, Iraq's oil sector has attracted significant investment from international oil companies (IOCs) through exploration and production contracts, service agreements, and production-sharing agreements (PSAs). IOCs operate in partnership with the state-owned Iraq National Oil Company (INOC) and its subsidiaries, contributing expertise, technology, and capital to develop Iraq's oil fields and infrastructure. Investments in oil field development, infrastructure projects, and capacity building are crucial for increasing production, enhancing efficiency, and maximizing revenue generation.

U.S. Support for a Federalism System in Iraq Fostering Stability and Inclusivity



By *Saadula Aqrawi*

The Case for Federalism, Advantages of Decentralization in Iraq

As we know that the United States' engagement in Iraq has been multifaceted, evolving from military intervention to diplomatic cooperation aimed at fostering stability, democracy, and inclusivity. Central to United States' policy in Iraq is the support for a federal democratic system that respects the rights and representation of all Iraqi communities. I believe that we can examine the rationale behind United States' support for a federal democratic Iraq, its implications for regional stability, and the challenges in achieving this vision. I believe that the United States' support for a federal democratic Iraq is rooted in its commitment to promoting democratic values and principles globally. Following the overthrow of Saddam Hussein's regime in 2003, the United States' sought to establish a representative government in Iraq that respects the rule of law, protects human rights, and fosters pluralism. A federal democratic system, with power-sharing mechanisms and constitutional safeguards, is seen as a means to accommodate Iraq's diverse ethnic and religious communities and prevent the dominance of any single group. Iraq is home to a mosaic of ethnic and religious groups, including Arabs, Kurds, Turkmen, Assyrians, and others. United States' support for a federal democratic Iraq aims to protect the rights and interests of minority communities, ensuring their participation in the political process and equitable representation in government institutions. By advocating for inclusive governance and minority rights, the United States seeks to prevent marginalization, discrimination, and sectarian tensions that could undermine Iraq's stability and cohesion. Iraq's transition to a federal democratic system is intricately linked to regional dynamics and geopolitical considerations. The United States recognizes the importance of maintaining Iraq's territorial integrity and sovereignty while addressing the

aspirations of its diverse population. A federal arrangement allows for the devolution of power to regional authorities, such as the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), while preserving Iraq's unity as a sovereign state. Balancing the interests of Iraq's neighbors, particularly Iran and Turkey, is essential for ensuring regional stability and security. United States support for a federal democratic Iraq extends beyond rhetoric to include capacity building, institution strengthening, and governance reform. Through diplomatic engagement, technical assistance, and financial aid, the UNITED STATES has supported Iraq's efforts to build democratic institutions, conduct free and fair elections, and promote the rule of law. Training Iraqi security forces, empowering civil society organizations, and fostering media freedom are integral components of United States assistance programs aimed at strengthening Iraq's democratic governance. Yes, despite the United States' support for a federal democratic Iraq, numerous challenges and roadblocks persist. Sectarian divisions, political polarization, and entrenched interests pose obstacles to inclusive governance and consensus-building. Moreover, external interference, regional rivalries, and terrorist threats continue to undermine Iraq's stability and democratic transition. Overcoming these challenges requires sustained commitment from Iraqi leaders, regional stakeholders, and the international community, with the United States playing a constructive role as a facilitator and partner. Of course the United States support for a federal democratic Iraq is grounded in the principles of democracy, pluralism, and inclusivity. By advocating for minority rights, promoting inclusive governance, and strengthening democratic institutions, the United States aims to foster stability, prosperity, and peace in Iraq and the wider region.

While challenges remain, the United States remains committed to working with Iraqi stakeholders and regional partners to realize the vision of a federal democratic Iraq that respects the rights and aspirations of all its citizens. I believe that in Iraq's political landscape has long been marked by centralized governance, with power concentrated in the hands of the central government in Baghdad. However, there is a growing movement advocating for federalism as an alternative approach to governance in Iraq. Yes we can explore the arguments in favor of federalism and the benefits of decentralization for Iraq's political, social, and economic development. Federalism acknowledges and respects the diversity of Iraq's population, which includes Arabs, Kurds, Turkmen, Assyrians, and other ethnic and religious groups. By devolving power to regional governments, federalism allows for greater representation and participation of diverse communities in decision-making processes. This recognition of diversity fosters inclusivity, reduces the risk of marginalization, and promotes social cohesion within the country. Decentralization under a federal system enables more efficient and responsive governance, as decision-making authority is delegated to regional authorities closer to the people. This localization of governance allows for tailored policies and programs that address the specific needs and priorities of each region. Moreover, regional governments are better positioned to deliver essential services such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure, leading to improved quality of life for citizens. Iraq is endowed with significant natural resources, particularly oil and gas reserves, which are unevenly distributed across the country. Federalism provides a framework for equitable resource management and revenue sharing, ensuring that all regions benefit from the

exploitation of national resources. Through revenue-sharing mechanisms, federalism promotes economic development, reduces disparities between rich and poor regions, and fosters economic cooperation and integration. Centralized governance has historically been a source of tension and conflict in Iraq, as different communities vie for influence and resources within the centralized system. Federalism offers a mechanism for conflict mitigation and resolution by granting regions a degree of autonomy and self-governance. By allowing regions to manage their affairs and pursue their interests within a federal framework, federalism can help alleviate tensions and promote stability within the country. Federalism provides a platform for the preservation and promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity within Iraq. Regional governments have the authority to protect and promote the languages, traditions, and heritage of their respective communities, strengthening social cohesion and identity. This recognition of cultural diversity contributes to national unity and resilience, fostering a sense of belonging among all citizens of Iraq. The case for federalism in Iraq is rooted in the principles of diversity, inclusivity, and effective governance. By decentralizing power and decision-making authority, federalism offers a pathway to address the country's complex political, social, and economic challenges. While the transition to a federal system may pose logistical and institutional challenges, the potential benefits in terms of governance effectiveness, conflict mitigation, and social cohesion make federalism a compelling option for Iraq's future. As Iraq continues to navigate its post-conflict reconstruction and democratization process, federalism offers a viable framework for building a more stable, prosperous, and inclusive society for all its citizens. I believe Federalism is a

system of governance that distributes power and authority between a central government and subnational units, such as states, provinces, or regions. This form of governance is adopted by numerous countries worldwide, each with its own unique characteristics and implications. Of course we can delve into the concept of federalism and examine examples of federal systems from around the world, highlighting their key features, advantages, and challenges. The United States is often considered the quintessential example of federalism, with power divided between the federal government and 50 states. Under the U.S. Constitution, the federal government is responsible for issues such as defense, foreign policy, and interstate commerce, while states have authority over matters like education, healthcare, and transportation. This division of powers is enshrined in the principle of "dual sovereignty," where both levels of government operate independently within their respective spheres. Canada operates under a federal system characterized by a division of powers between the federal government and 10 provinces and three territories. Similar to the U.S., Canada's Constitution delineates areas of jurisdiction for the federal and provincial governments, with shared responsibilities in certain areas. Canada's federalism is also notable for its recognition of Quebec's distinct linguistic and cultural identity, with provisions for provincial autonomy and bilingualism. Germany's federal system, known as "Bundesrepublik Deutschland," consists of 16 federal states (Länder) that enjoy significant autonomy and legislative powers. The German Constitution, or Basic Law (Grundgesetz), outlines the division of competencies between the federal government and the Länder, with the latter having authority over education, policing, and cultural affairs. Germany's federalism is characterized

by cooperative federalism, where the central and state governments collaborate closely on policy-making and implementation. Australia operates under a federal system comprised of six states and two territories, with power divided between the federal government and the states. The Australian Constitution delineates exclusive and concurrent powers, with the federal government responsible for defense, immigration, and trade, while states oversee areas such as education, healthcare, and transport. Australia's federalism is marked by a high degree of fiscal equalization, where revenue-sharing mechanisms ensure that states with fewer resources receive adequate funding. India's federal system, enshrined in the Constitution, allocates powers between the central government and 28 states and eight union territories. While the central government retains authority over defense, foreign affairs, and communications, states have jurisdiction over a wide range of subjects, including agriculture, health, and public order. India's federalism is notable for its asymmetrical nature, with certain states enjoying special provisions and autonomy based on linguistic, cultural, or historical factors. Yes, I believe that the Federalism is a flexible and adaptable system of governance that accommodates diverse political, cultural, and geographic realities. While each federal system has its own unique characteristics and challenges, they share common principles of decentralization, division of powers, and cooperative governance. By allowing for the representation of diverse interests and identities, federalism fosters inclusivity, stability, and effective governance in countries around the world. As nations continue to grapple with complex challenges and aspirations for self-determination, federalism remains a viable model for balancing unity and diversity in governance structures.

The Iraqi Kurdistan Region holds significant importance both within Iraq and on the broader regional stage



The Vital Role of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, a Beacon of Stability, Diversity, and Strategic Significance

By *James Harris*

Amidst the turbulence that has characterized much of Iraq's recent history, the Kurdistan Region stands out as a relatively stable and secure area. This stability has been crucial in attracting investment, fostering economic growth, and providing a safe haven for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees fleeing conflict in other parts of Iraq and neighboring countries. The Kurdistan Region is endowed with abundant natural resources, including oil and gas reserves. These resources present significant economic opportunities for the region, attracting foreign investment and driving economic development. The Kurdistan Region's relatively autonomous status has allowed it to develop its own oil and gas industry, contributing to its economic growth and self-sufficiency. The Kurdistan Region is home to a diverse population comprising Kurds, Arabs, Turkmen, Assyrians, and other ethnic and religious groups. This diversity enriches the cultural fabric of the region and fosters a spirit of tolerance and coexistence. The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) has made efforts to protect and promote the rights of minority communities, contributing to social harmony and stability. Situated at the crossroads of the Middle East, the Kurdistan Region occupies a strategic geographic position. Its proximity to neighboring countries such as Turkey, Iran, and Syria makes it an important transit route for trade and commerce. The Kurdistan Region's strategic location also gives it geopolitical significance, with regional and international powers seeking to cultivate ties with the KRG for economic, political, and security reasons. The Kurdistan Region wields influence beyond its borders, particularly in mat-



ters relating to Kurdish politics and aspirations. Despite occasional tensions between the Kurdistan Region and the central government in Baghdad, the KRG has been an integral part of Iraq's political landscape. Its participation in national politics, commitment to the federal democratic system, and cooperation with the central government has contributed to Iraq's stability and unity. The Kurdistan Region's willingness to engage in dialogue and compromise has helped mitigate tensions and foster cooperation between Baghdad and Erbil. The Iraqi Kurdistan Region holds significant importance due to its political stability, economic potential, cultural diversity, strategic location, regional influence, and contributions to Iraq's stability and unity. As Iraq continues to navi-

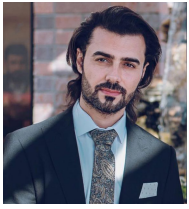
gate its post-conflict reconstruction and democratization process, the Kurdistan Region is likely to play a pivotal role in shaping the country's future trajectory and regional dynamics. Nestled in the northern reaches of Iraq, the Kurdistan Region stands as a beacon of stability, cultural diversity, and strategic importance in a region often plagued by turmoil and uncertainty. With its unique blend of political autonomy, economic potential, and rich cultural heritage, the Kurdistan Region plays a pivotal role not only within Iraq but also on the broader regional stage, the multifaceted importance of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region. Amidst the challenges facing Iraq, the Kurdistan Region stands out as a bastion of relative stability and governance. Since the establishment of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in

1992, the region has enjoyed a degree of political autonomy, allowing it to govern its affairs independently. This autonomy has provided a stable foundation for economic growth, social development, and the protection of minority rights within the region. The Kurdistan Region is endowed with significant natural resources, including oil and gas reserves. This abundance of resources has positioned the region as an economic powerhouse within Iraq, attracting investment and driving economic growth. The KRG's proactive approach to developing its energy sector has not only bolstered its economic fortunes but also contributed to Iraq's overall energy production and export capacity. Home to a mosaic of ethnic and religious communities, the Kurdistan Region embodies the spirit of diversity and co-

existence. Kurds, Arabs, Turkmen, Assyrians, and other groups call the region home, enriching its cultural landscape with their traditions, languages, and customs. The KRG's commitment to protecting the rights of minority communities has fostered a sense of inclusivity and tolerance, setting an example for peaceful coexistence in a region often divided by sectarianism and conflict. Situated at the crossroads of the Middle East, the Kurdistan Region occupies a strategic geographic position with access to key trade routes and border crossings. Its proximity to neighboring countries such as Turkey, Iran, and Syria makes it a vital hub for regional trade, commerce, and transit. The region's strategic location has also made it an important player in regional politics, with international powers seek-

ing to cultivate ties with the KRG for economic and geopolitical reasons. As a result, developments in the Kurdistan Region have implications for Kurdish communities and politics throughout the region, making it a key player in regional dynamics. The Iraqi Kurdistan Region occupies a unique and indispensable position within Iraq and the broader Middle East. With its stability, economic potential, cultural diversity, strategic location, and regional influence, the Kurdistan Region serves as a model for peaceful coexistence, inclusive governance, and regional cooperation. As Iraq continues its journey towards stability and prosperity, the Kurdistan Region will undoubtedly remain a cornerstone of progress and development in the region.

The Thucydides Trap: inevitability of Cold War between US and China



By *Mohammed Rahman Ahmed*

The war between the super-powers is a war to impose its values and principles on the weak. These values and principles are not blind and aimless, but the strong will formulate values, principles and rules in such a way that continuously, ensures their strengthening and the weakening of the weak.

(History is rewritten by the victorious) The truth of this is that the successful and the dominant always impose their own values and legitimate their own values. They also defame their opponents value . If the German Nazi and Italian fascists had triumphed over the liberal capitalist front in World War II, or if the Cold War had ended with the victory of communism, international values and principles would have been very different, in today's world.

Although the goal of all states is to strengthen their economy because the economy is the dynamo of the development of all other sectors and forces of the state, but economic conflicts turn into a cold or hot war when values are different. So when Japan or Germany or a union like the European Union becomes economically strong, they will not enter a Cold War with the United States because they have the same values. In other words, these forces, no matter how strong, do not pose a threat to the global system, international law and international institutions because they follow the same values and principles of liberal capitalism as the United States. But when a power like China emerges and grows economically, the US throne will shake because China comes to the international arena with new values and principles that are different from those of liberal capitalism.

China tried a different approach from the beginning when it began to economic development in the early 1980s. Because after World War II, the establishment of international institutions and the international economic and trade system was established according to the wishes of the United States and liberal cap-



italism. to the extent that They linked the development of the developing countries to the practice of democracy, free markets and capitalist principles, which they called modernization. That is, they linked economic development to political change. But China has passed this path. it got economic development without political change and democracy, which it has succeeded in, and wants to pass on this unique approach to other developing countries. This is despite the fact that most developing countries have failed to develop economically on the path of modernization and development through Western and American capitalism.

One of China's strategies for economic and political development is to follow its own step-by-step path, rather than external shocks. The point is that China wants to slowly experiment with economic change step by step in the Chinese way, as opposed to external shocks, which means copying a Western system and following it completely. As Russia did after the collapse of the Soviet Union, it suffered further economic collapse and caused many security, political and social problems.

China wants to develop its own model that is a mixture of free market and cooperative economy, which is state capitalism in which companies are under the control of the state rather than the state under the control of companies. In other words, there should be a free market but also social institutions for social welfare. Thus, it is neither

the old socialist system they followed nor liberal capitalism.

Politically, Chinese thinkers and politicians are gradually inventing and experimenting with new methods based on a step-by-step strategy. That is a mixture of dictatorship and democracy. They are trying to experiment with a kind of consultative democracy, but by a single party. In many regions, officials present an issue to the public before making a decision, and then decide on it. for practice this, They have taken advantage in the Internet and technological advances.

Because they believe that the rule of law, bureaucracy and technocracy is better than populist democracy for progress and strengthening and for the public benefit. In the first case, the state appoints the right people and technocrats in the right places, but in the second case, the people decide, and the people often elect populists.

In addition to domestically, China is developing its own model both economically and politically and does not fall under the Western model of liberalism. Similarly, at the foreign policy level, it has adopted a different approach from the United States and the West Universalization of the values and principles of liberal capitalism. Unlike the United States, which pursues a policy of intervention and confronts countries that do not follow liberal values and principles both economically and politically and socially, China emphasizes respect for the sovereignty of

non-intervention.

Because China itself is an undemocratic country that does not respect human rights and minorities, it cannot ask other countries to be democratic. On the other hand, it wants to adopt a multidimensional diplomatic policy that does not have problems with the political systems of countries, whether democratic or dictatorial. Instead, he will deal them all without pressure, interference or conditioning. This can attract the attention and support of most dictatorial regimes, while in most developing countries rich in wealth, minerals and natural resources, dictatorial regimes are in power.

in addition, In contrast to the policies of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, two international institutions subordinate to Western capitalist policies, China lends to developing countries. The IMF and World Bank lend to countries under a number of conditions such as economic structural reform, reducing and eliminating taxes on foreign goods, opening the door to foreign investment and multinational companies , privatizing the public sector, reducing public spending and services public, being democratic, etc. in addition to the interest on the loan.

These conditions are very difficult for these countries and often their economies collapse due to the conditions of these loans and their accumulation. But China lends to countries, especially African countries, without any of these conditions, often without

interest. They are no longer forced to listen to the IMF's advice or the so-called Washington consensus. All this illustrates that China is preparing to participate in the shaping of the international system with new and different values and principles in the future.

If this continues and China grows economically at such a rapid pace, including military technology, the West, especially the United States, will have to listen to it on global issues, values and principles. Therefore, the United States is trying hard to prevent China's growth and create obstacles or at least put it within the values and principles of capitalist liberalism, so that this international system based on the interests of advanced capitalist countries to continue and prolong its life. Because the survival of the United States as a power depends on the globalization of capital and investment, free trade and open markets, and the generalization of the values and principles of capitalist liberalism. In other words, the main problem is to lead the global system.

Therefore, relations between the two countries are increasingly tense, especially after the coming to power of Trump in the United States, because they found that their trade relations are unbalanced, in favor of China, that is, the United States has suffered a deficit in trade exchange relationship with china. That's why Donald Trump decided to impose more tariffs on Chinese imports. One reason for this imbalance is that China imports raw materials from devel-

oping countries and exports manufactured goods to the United States.

This is despite the fact that the United States is critical of China's economic system, which creates many obstacles to foreign investment and foreign companies, so that one of the conditions for foreign investment and foreign companies must work together with local Chinese companies. this policies of china have forced many investors to bring technology into China.

The US political efforts to oppose China are twofold:

The first seeks to reform China's political and economic system into a completely free, open and unconditional market for foreign investment and companies. That is, doing radically and rapidly reform in china's economic structure. the consequences of This both weakens its economy and imposes the values and principles of capitalist liberalism. This is very difficult and almost impossible because, as we mentioned earlier, China is following its own step-by-step strategy, ie it wants to establish its own economic system and not imitate any foreign or Western system based on shock model.

The second is a more dangerous possibility, which is to use the policy of encircling and containing China and isolating it from international trade, but for this the United States can not do alone, but must be supported by most countries. This is very difficult because China is a major economic and commercial center for most countries.

On the other hand, such a policy is a threat to international peace and security, both economically and politically. In a way, it will again lead to conflict and international polarization. All this shows that the two countries are in conflict and a Cold War because of the differences in the values and principles that they want to run the world system. According to ((The Thucydides Trap)), whenever a force arises and tries to replace a dominant force, war between the two forces is inevitable.

The Medical Sector in Iraqi Kurdistan Region



Significant strides in developing its medical sector over the years

By *Dr. Nojdar Akreyi*

The Iraqi Kurdistan Region has made significant strides in developing its medical sector over the years, marked by advancements in healthcare infrastructure, medical education, and access to quality healthcare services. However, challenges persist, ranging from resource constraints to healthcare disparities. The current state of the medical sector in Iraqi Kurdistan, highlighting its achievements, ongoing initiatives, and areas for improvement.

Healthcare Infrastructure, The Kurdistan Region has witnessed substantial investments in healthcare infrastructure, with the establishment of modern hospitals, clinics, and specialized medical centers across the region. Major cities like Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, and Dohuk boast state-of-the-art healthcare facilities equipped with advanced medical technology and equipment. These developments have bolstered the region's capacity to provide comprehensive healthcare services to its residents. The Medical Education and Training, The Kurdistan Region has prioritized medical education and training to meet the growing demand for qualified healthcare professionals. Medical universities and institutions, such as the University of Kurdistan Hewlêr and the University of Sulaimani, offer undergraduate and postgraduate programs in medicine, nursing, pharmacy, and allied health sciences. These institutions play a crucial role in producing skilled healthcare professionals who contribute to the region's healthcare workforce. Healthcare Services and Access, Access to healthcare services has improved in the Kurdistan Region, with efforts to expand primary care coverage and reduce barriers to healthcare access in rural and underserved areas. The establishment

of primary healthcare centers, mobile clinics, and telemedicine initiatives has facilitated greater access to essential healthcare services, particularly for marginalized communities and remote populations. The Challenges and Opportunities, Despite progress, the medical sector in Iraqi Kurdistan faces several challenges, including inadequate funding, shortages of medical supplies and equipment, and disparities in healthcare access between urban and rural areas. Additionally, the region grapples with a shortage of specialized healthcare professionals and a need for continuous medical education and training. Addressing these challenges requires sustained investment, strategic planning, and collaboration between government agencies, healthcare providers, and international partners. The medical sector in Iraqi Kurdistan has made remarkable progress in recent years,

with advancements in infrastructure, education, and healthcare services. However, challenges persist, requiring concerted efforts to address funding gaps, improve healthcare access, and enhance the quality of care. By investing in healthcare infrastructure, strengthening medical education and training, and prioritizing healthcare access for all residents, Iraqi Kurdistan can continue to build a robust and resilient healthcare system that meets the needs of its population and contributes to improved health outcomes for all.

The medical sector in Iraq plays a crucial role in providing healthcare services to its population, addressing public health challenges, and contributing to the overall well-being of its citizens. Despite facing numerous obstacles, including decades of conflict, economic instability, and resource constraints, the Iraqi medical sector con-

tinues to evolve, adapt, and strive for excellence. The current state of the medical sector in Iraq, its achievements, challenges, and ongoing efforts to improve healthcare delivery. Healthcare Infrastructure, Iraq's healthcare infrastructure comprises hospitals, clinics, primary healthcare centers, and specialized medical facilities distributed across the country. Major cities like Baghdad, Basra, Mosul, and Erbil are home to tertiary care hospitals equipped with modern medical technology and facilities. However, rural and underserved areas often face challenges in accessing quality healthcare services due to inadequate infrastructure and resources.

Human Resources and Training, The Iraqi medical sector relies on a cadre of skilled healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and allied health professionals. Medical education and

training are provided by universities and institutions across the country, with a focus on producing competent healthcare professionals to meet the population's healthcare needs. Continuous medical education and training programs are essential to keep healthcare professionals abreast of advancements in medical science and technology. Public health initiatives in Iraq focus on disease prevention, health promotion, and addressing public health challenges such as communicable diseases, maternal and child health, and non-communicable diseases. Vaccination campaigns, health education programs, and screening initiatives are conducted to raise awareness and improve health outcomes. Despite efforts to improve public health, challenges remain, including inadequate sanitation, environmental pollution, and limited access to clean water. The Iraqi medical sector

faces several challenges, including, Security concerns: Ongoing security threats and instability pose significant challenges to healthcare delivery, with healthcare facilities and personnel often targeted in conflict zones. Economic constraints: Economic instability and budgetary constraints impact healthcare funding, infrastructure development, and the procurement of medical supplies and equipment. The emigration of skilled healthcare professionals in search of better opportunities abroad contributes to staffing shortages and strains the healthcare system. Infrastructure deficiencies: Inadequate healthcare infrastructure, particularly in rural and remote areas, hampers access to quality healthcare services for vulnerable populations. Despite challenges, efforts are underway to improve healthcare delivery in Iraq, including, Infrastructure development: Investments in healthcare infrastructure, including the construction and renovation of hospitals and clinics, aim to expand access to healthcare services.

The medical sector in Iraq faces numerous challenges, yet it remains resilient and committed to providing quality healthcare services to its population. By addressing infrastructure deficiencies, investing in human resources and training, and strengthening public health initiatives, Iraq can overcome obstacles and build a more robust and sustainable healthcare system. International support and partnerships play a crucial role in complementing domestic efforts and advancing the goal of achieving equitable access to healthcare for all Iraqis.



Rewan Amin: Rising Star of Iraqi Football

Duhok's Talented Captain Rewan Amin Poised to Lead Iraq's World Cup Qualification Campaign



Duhok's captain, Rewan Amin, has clinched a spot in Iraq's national team lineup for the upcoming World Cup qualifiers against the Philippines, a testament to his skill and dedication. Handpicked by coach Jesus Casas, Amin's inclusion is a boost for Iraq's chances as they aim for qualification.

Set to take place on May 21st in Basra and May 26th in the Philippines, these matches are crucial moments in Iraq's football journey. Amin's role in these games could prove decisive as the team vies for a coveted spot in the World Cup.

Amin's journey to the national team has been one of hard work and perseverance. At 28 years old, he brings valuable experience, having earned five caps for Iraq. His recent call-up during the Gulf Cup speaks volumes about his consistent performance on the field.

Starting his career with Heerenveen and later playing in Sweden for clubs like Dalkurd and Östersund, Amin's path led

him to Duhok a year ago. Since then, his impact on the team has been immense. Duhok currently sits at third place in the league standings with 27 points, thanks in part to Amin's contributions.

Football fans across Iraq are buzzing with excitement as Amin joins the national team lineup. His presence adds depth and determination to Iraq's squad as they embark on their World Cup qualification journey. With Amin on board, the team is poised to make waves on the international stage.

Amin's football journey began with promise as he swiftly made his mark, scoring a goal in his debut for the Netherlands under-15 team. Recognizing his potential, he was soon promoted to the under-17 squad, where he not only showcased his skills but also assumed the captain's role, leading his team through ten memorable matches.

In a pivotal turn of events, Amin embraced his heritage and chose to represent his country of birth, Iraq, in 2022. This

decision marked a significant milestone as he received his first call-up from coach Radhi Shenaishil to join Iraq's squad for the esteemed Jordan International Tournament. Despite initially starting on the bench for the semi-final against Oman, Amin seized the opportunity when he stepped onto the field in the closing minutes of the match against Syria, leaving a lasting impression with his passion and determination.

Under the mentorship of coach Jesús Casas, Amin's journey reached new heights as he earned his place in Iraq's final squad for the prestigious 25th Arabian Gulf Cup. This tournament proved to be a crowning moment for Amin and his teammates as they clinched the title, etching their names in the annals of Iraqi football history. Amin's transition from the Netherlands youth setup to becoming an integral part of Iraq's national team exemplifies his resilience, determination, and unwavering commitment to the sport he loves.

Dilsoz Obeid shines at Arab Women Sports Tournament



In a remarkable display of athleticism, Kurdish runner Dilsoz Obeid clinched the second position in the highly competitive 100-meter hurdles at the Arab Women Sports Tournament. The tournament was run in the UAE. Obeid was part of an impressive quartet of Kurdish winners who contributed to the commendable performance of the Nineveh girls' team at the event.

Preceding the competition, the athletes underwent an intensive 15-day training camp in Slemani, underscoring their commitment to preparation and excellence in their respective events.

Expressing a mix of emotions, Obeid stated, "I am both happy and saddened by my performance. Securing second place is a source of joy, but there's a tinge of regret as I believe I could have clinched the top spot had I not encountered hurdles just before the finishing line."

Obeid is no stranger to success, consistently excelling in various domestic and international competitions. Prior to the Arab Clubs event, she triumphed in the Slemani competition by securing the first-place position in the 100-meter run, showcasing her prowess on both national and international stages.

As one of the dedicated sportspersons who has devoted time and effort to the discipline of running, Obeid's journey and resilience stand as an inspiration to aspiring athletes. With her consistent track record and positive mindset, there's no doubt that Dilsoz Obeid is poised for even greater achievements in her future endeavors in the world of athletics.

Rostam's Debut Lifts Esteghlal Khuzestan to Victory



In a stellar debut for Esteghlal Khuzestan, Aso Rostam showcased his prowess by scoring a crucial goal in the 72nd minute and providing an assist in the 93rd minute. This dynamic performance played a pivotal role in Esteghlal Khuzestan securing a 3-2 victory over Aluminum Arak during the 17th round of the Iranian Premier League.

Before Rostam's arrival, the club had struggled, managing to

win only one of their 16 games. However, the tide turned with this win, propelling Esteghlal Khuzestan up two places from the league's bottom to a commendable fourth position with a total of 12 points. This victory marks a significant turnaround for the team, which was previously languishing at the bottom of the league standings.



Folklore Spotlight

Mohammad Mamle



Mohammad Mamle, an illustrious Kurdish singer, graced the world with his musical prowess, leaving an enduring legacy that resonates with the rich cultural tapestry of his people. Born on June 2, 1925, in the vibrant Khre village of Mahabad, Mamle's journey into the realm of music began to unfold in his formative years.

Mamle's early education in Mahabad's Pahlavi and Saadat schools laid the foundation for a life dedicated to the melodies that would define his career. Embracing the Mamle name from his grandfather during a census, he emerged as a calm and tolerant individual, embodying the spirit of loyalty to family, friends, and the Kurdish community.

Rooted in a family known for its enthusiastic voices, Mamle's musical odyssey found its breakthrough with the iconic "Royee Bejey Heshtm" meaning "She Left Me Alone". This marked the inception of his revolutionary contributions to Kurdish art, a journey that would see him create over 700 soul-stirring songs.

The path of Mamle's musical passion was not without its challenges. In the face of arrests and deportations during the monarchy, Mamle remained unwavering, steadfast in his commitment to the art that fueled his soul. His extensive repertoire showcased a profound appreciation for the poetic works of luminaries such as Wafae, Sulaiman Shawla, and Goran, enriching his songs with timeless verses.

Mamle's performances echoed through cities, with Qaladze, Sulaimani, and Sarchnar among the fortunate witnesses to his artistry. Influenced by the greats like Khalili Saddiqi and Rafiq Chalak, Mamle's music became a harmonious reflection of Kurdish cultural heritage.

Mohammad Mamle, survived by his wife Amina Khan, leaves a lasting legacy with seven sons and two daughters. His impact on Kurdish music goes beyond his time, a testament to the enduring power of artistic expression and the cultural identity he cherished. His story lives on in the melodies and tunes that defined him, ensuring that Mamle's influence continues to resonate for years to come.

New Season of '8 Diwar' Series: A Journey Through Time and Culture

Kurdistan TV
to charm
audiences once
more with
the highly
anticipated
second
season of its
celebrated
series,
"8 Diwar."



Following the resounding success of its inaugural season, which captured the imagination of Kurdish drama enthusiasts, the forthcoming season promises to raise the genre to new heights with its captivating blend of fantasy, history, and innovation.

The people behind the magic are Director Karokh Hakim and writer Kamaran Khoshnaw. They made "8 Diwar" a groundbreaking series by weaving together the story of time travel and exploring different cultures. The main character, Vania Salar, also known as Shanya, is a modern Kurdish woman who finds herself in the 1980s. This unique idea of mixing today's world with historical events has made "8 Diwar" stand out in Kurdish television. People love interesting stories and well-developed characters.

In a recent interview with The Kurdish Globe, Director Karokh Hakim provided insight into the creative vision driving Season 2, divulging that the series will venture even further back in time to the year 1917. Through this temporal odyssey, "8 Diwar" endeavors to offer viewers a fresh perspective on Kurdish history, reimagining pivotal moments through the prism of fantasy and imagination. Hakim articulates his aspiration to challenge conventional norms and elevate Kurdish drama to new heights of artistic expression, stat-

ing, "We have tried to give a different definition to the history of Kurds through using fantasy and traveling back to the times when many events would happen."

Season 2 of "8 Diwar" heralds a host of exciting changes, including the introduction of new cast members, diverse filming locations, and enhanced production quality. A meticulously crafted village on a 7.5 dunam area, comprising 28 intricately designed houses, serves as the backdrop for the series, underscoring the commitment to authenticity and attention to detail that defines the production.

When inquired about the funding source for the construction of a new village and its houses, Hakim graciously shared, "We were fortunate to have individuals from diverse locations who willingly financed the project. Additionally, we had contributors who played a vital role in preparing meals for the dedicated 150 working crew." Hakim attributed the community's generosity to their compassionate nature, underscoring that the remarkable success of the inaugural season significantly influenced this positive outcome.

With a cast of 49 main actors and a filming process spanning seven months, "8 Diwar" Season 2 promises to deliver a historical narrative spanning 30 episodes, each being filled with mystery, emotion, and cultural resonance. Beyond its en-

tertainment value, the series tries to showcase the richness and diversity of Kurdish culture, from traditional attire to linguistic aspects, fostering a sense of connection and pride among viewers. In addition to the actors, the technical team consisted of 62 individuals, with an additional 12 contributing to the post-production efforts. Nearly 1000 supporting cast members played minor roles, particularly in crowd scenes throughout the series.

Director Karokh Hakim articulates his ambition to bridge the gap between artists and audiences, revitalizing interest in Kurdish dramas and films amidst the influx of foreign content. He emphasizes the importance of innovation and pushing the boundaries of storytelling, stating, "It is not too early for Kurdish audiences to experience fictitious elements inside historical narratives since this has been practiced in other countries earlier."

As Kurdistan TV gets ready to show Season 2 of "8 Diwar" during Ramadan, people are excited for another great part of this series. With its exciting story, great acting, and focus on Kurdish culture, "8 Diwar" is sure to keep viewers hooked. It's becoming a big part of Kurdish TV and a favorite for many.

By Zak Amin Zandy