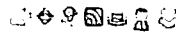


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(U) Saddam Husayn



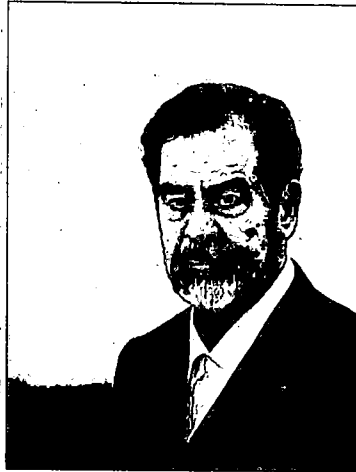
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Saddam Husayn (April 28, 1937 - December 30, 2006) (Arabic: صدام حسين - also transliterated Saddam Hussein) --Former Iraqi President; Chairman, Revolutionary Command Council; Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces; Secretary General, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party (since 1979); Prime Minister (since 1994) was a controlling, intimidating, and unmerciful ruler who used any means necessary—including imprisonment, torture, assassination, and mass murder—to impose his authority and to overcome resistance. Saddam bribed and manipulated tribal leaders to ensure their loyalty, shuffled military and civilian personnel to prevent challenges, and filled top government posts almost exclusively with members of his Tikriti clan. Moreover, he often reversed short-term tactics to exploit his opponents' disunity and to advance his long-term goal of establishing Iraq as the dominant state in the Persian Gulf region.

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Former Iraqi President Saddam Husayn stands in the docket after being sentenced to death during his trial.

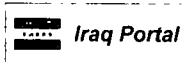
(U) Saddam was captured by Coalition Forces on 13 December 2003, and his capture was announced the following day. He was tried for his crimes against humanity in al-Dujal, and was executed by hanging on 30 December 2006.

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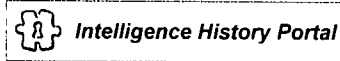
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Ideology as a Leadership Tool



Saddam emphasized several ideological themes to fortify his power and to fashion a national identity out of Iraq's cultural melange:



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- The cult of personality. Saddam used state propaganda organs to link his political fortunes to the national destiny. Tributes to Saddam—in books, television broadcasts, portraits, murals, songs, and clothing, for example—were found throughout Baghdad.
- Pan-Arabism and Arab Nationalism. Saddam often publicly stressed his political and ideological roots in the Ba'th Party, which propounds an Arab renaissance, cultural unity, and socialism. He grew up at a time when Iraq's leaders were wresting independence from Great Britain and, according to official Iraqi accounts, he drew inspiration from nationalist intellectuals.
- The Babylonian mystique. Saddam revived a consciousness of Iraq's historical and mythic greatness by identifying himself with Tamuzz, a Mesopotamian deity, and rulers such as Hammurabi, Nebuchadnezzar, and Sargon.
- Islamic brotherhood. Despite his secular past, Saddam invoked Islamic values to woo Iraq's Muslims. He made pilgrimages to Mecca and to holy sites in Iraq, rebuilt shrines and sponsored revivals, decreed Islamic legal penalties for crimes, closed bars and discos, and concocted a bogus genealogy to show his lineage to the prophet Muhammad.

█ In contrast to Saddam's evident grasp of Arab—and especially Iraqi—culture, his perspective toward the West appears shallow, parochial, and suspicious. He had not traveled to a Western country since the late 1970s and often expressed contempt for the effects of Western colonialism on the Arab world. Saddam claimed that Western powers were scheming to subjugate Iraq and to eradicate its technological and cultural achievements.

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Populist Autocrat, High-Stakes Risk Taker

█ Saddam made all key policy decisions in Iraq. He usually acted quickly and decisively—but not impulsively—with little input from the highly centralized bureaucracy or the Ba'th Party's showcase Revolutionary Command Council. Saddam demonstrated his willingness to test limits and to take high risks, as well as his capacity to miscalculate—most egregiously when he ordered invasions of Iran in 1980 (Iran-Iraq War) and Kuwait in 1990 (Persian Gulf War). Officials who have dealt with Saddam say that he regarded diplomacy as a way to extract concessions, not to reach compromises.



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A Turbulent Path to Power (U)

█ Saddam lived most of his life amid instability, danger, and violence. Saddam—which can mean “the one who confronts” in Arabic—was born in 1937 in a village near Tikrit. His childhood was reportedly harsh and abusive, and he reputedly committed his first murder by the age of 12. He then fell under the sway of his uncle, Khayrallah Tilfa—a businessman, petty criminal, and Anglophobic anti-imperialist—and spent his adolescence in the Tikrit area as a bandit and street peddler.

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█ In 1955, Saddam moved to Baghdad, where he became acquainted with the ideas of Ba'th Party founder Michel Aflaq and two years later joined the small, conspiratorial Ba'th organization. In 1959 he was a gunman in the unsuccessful assassination attempt on Prime Minister Qasim. Saddam reportedly went to prison for two years and into exile twice in the late 1950s and early 1960s for that incident and other illegal party activities. In the early 1960s, he headed the underground Ba'th cell in Cairo, Egypt,—where he was smitten with Nasserism—and the Iraqi Ba'th apparatus in Damascus, Syria.

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[redacted] Saddam returned to Baghdad after the Ba'thist coup in early 1963. He soon became a party leader and helped his Tikriti clan take over the organization. Following another Ba'thist revolt in 1968, he became vice chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council. Saddam began to build Iraq's security services and soon developed a reputation for ruthlessness. During the relatively stable 1970s, he further consolidated his power base in the Ba'th Party, the military, and the security services. In July 1979 he became leader of Iraq after persuading the ailing President to resign.

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[redacted] Saddam completed his secondary education and began legal studies in Egypt in the early 1960s; he received a degree from the Baghdad College of Law in 1970. He understands English well but prefers to speak Arabic with foreigners. Observers have described his Arabic as having a "rural" accent and his speeches as dull and monotone.

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Saddam's Capture

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- SADDAM CAPTURE TIMELINE.doc [redacted]
- SADDAM CAPTURE LINK CHART.ppt [redacted]
- Operation RED DAWN (Saddam Capture).ppt [redacted]

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Tried and Executed for War Crimes

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Main article: Iraq War Crime Case and Trial — al-Dujayl

Main article: Execution of Saddam Husayn

[redacted] Saddam ruled primarily by fear, using extensive and overlapping military, security and intelligence services and widespread connections with prominent members of his Tikriti clan who occupied key leadership positions. Saddam used his positions as Chairman of Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) and commander in chief of the Armed Forces to bolster his control of the Iraqi population.

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- As chairman of the RCC, Saddam was responsible for the various decrees issued, such as RCC decree number 59 in 1994 that imposed amputation and execution as punishment for cases of robbery and theft.
- As commander in chief, Saddam was ultimately responsible for all military operations, including the decision to use chemical or biological weapons (CBW) against coalition forces during the Gulf War.



[redacted] With the support of the US Regime Crimes Liaison Office (RCLO), the Iraqi government is pursuing prosecutions and trials of Saddam and several other former regime officials with several major war crimes committed over the past quarter-century. These include the following events or cases: Marsh Arabs (1979-), al-Dujayl (1982), the Anfal Campaign and Halabja (1987-88), the Kuwait Invasion (1990), the Intifada (1991), and the Merchants Case (1992).

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[redacted] The Iraqi Special Tribunal (now the Iraqi Higher Criminal Court) charged Saddam and seven

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co-defendants for the crimes in al-Dujayl--the first to be tried by the court. Proceedings began on 19 October 2005. On 15 May 2006, it was confirmed that Saddam and his co-defendants would face formal charges of crimes against humanity for their role in this event. Saddam was also charged and is now being tried for his crimes involving the Anfal Campaign.

(U) On 5 November 2006, the IST sentenced Saddam and two other defendants in the al-Dujayl war crimes case to death by hanging.

(U) Saddam Husayn was executed at 10:05pm EST (December 30th 2006 6:05am Baghdad) at a former military headquarters in a Shia neighborhood of Baghdad, according to press reports. Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki did not attend the execution, but the Iraqi Government provided official witnesses, a medical doctor, and a cleric to prepare the body.



News footage of Saddam's final moments.

See also War Crimes Prosecutions and Trials - Iraq

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