

IRAQ



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- HISTORY, GOVERNMENT and DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA
- CHALLENGES

Ruth, Mac, Sandy, Alan



IRAQ. عراق

- National capital
- Governorate capital
- Town, village
- Airport
- International boundary
- Governorate boundary
- Expressway
- Main road
- Secondary road
- Railroad



PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

Google Chrome browser window showing a Google Maps page. The address bar contains the URL: [google.com.au/maps/place/Iraq/@34.1132288,44.5222315,6z/data=!4m6!3m5!1s0x1557823d545f4a11:0x6da561bba2061602!8m...](https://www.google.com.au/maps/place/Iraq/@34.1132288,44.5222315,6z/data=!4m6!3m5!1s0x1557823d545f4a11:0x6da561bba2061602!8m...)

The map displays Iraq and surrounding regions, including Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Iran, and Kuwait. Key cities are labeled, and Baghdad is highlighted with a red circle. Other cities highlighted include Mosul, Erbil, and Basrah.

At the bottom of the screen, the Windows taskbar is visible, showing the Start button, search bar, and various application icons. The system tray displays the date and time: 11:26 AM, 3/07/2024.



ERBIL



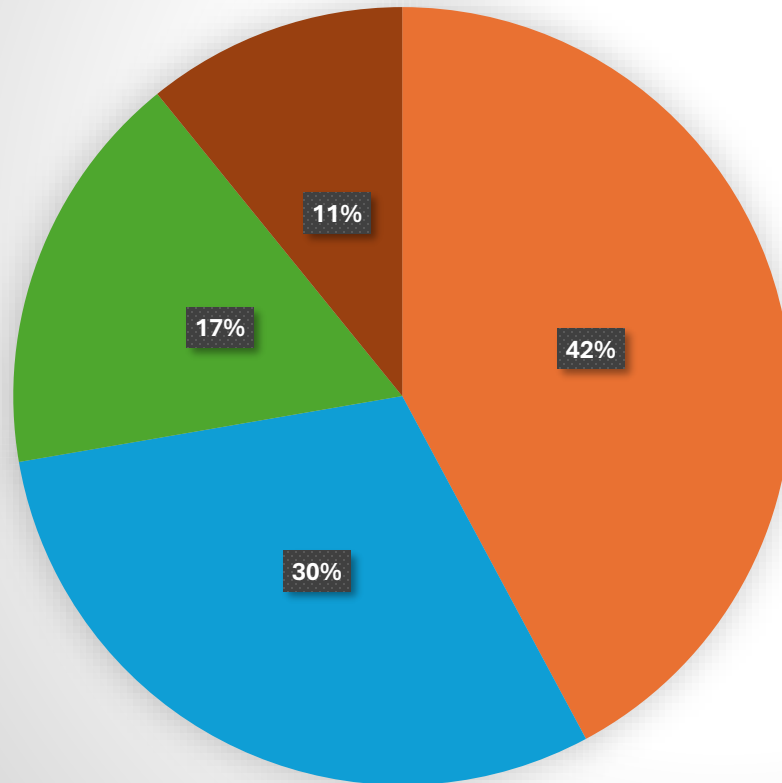
ECONOMY



NATURAL RESOURCES

Main crude oil export destinations

June 2024



- China
- United States
- India
- South Korea

Primary Sectors: Agriculture and Fishing





The Sunday Times Rich List 2023

Nadhmi Shakir Auchi

The richest man in Iraq

net worth of £1.182 billion

a prominent British-Iraqi businessman who rose from humble beginnings in Baghdad to establish the colossal General Mediterranean Holding (GMH)



New Iraqi Dinar

RELIGION

- 95% plus are Muslim; 55% Shia & 40% Sunni
- Zoroastrianism has become the fastest growing religion partly because of the religion's strong ties to Kurdish culture
- There are at least 30 distinct identifiable entho-religious groups
- Genocide of the Assyrians
- Departure of the Jewish community



CULTURE

Able to claim to having invented writing, maths, law and astrology

Long and rich literary tradition, especially poetry

Sung poetry is considered to be one of the finest forms of Iraqi classical music

The traditional music of the diverse ethnic groups like Kurdish, Turk and Arabic music are often collectively known as Mesopotamia music



CRAFTS & SPORT



TRADITIONS & CHANGE

- Patriarchy
- Women in public life
- Marriage
- Divorce



LANGUAGE

Two official languages: **Arabic, Kurdish**

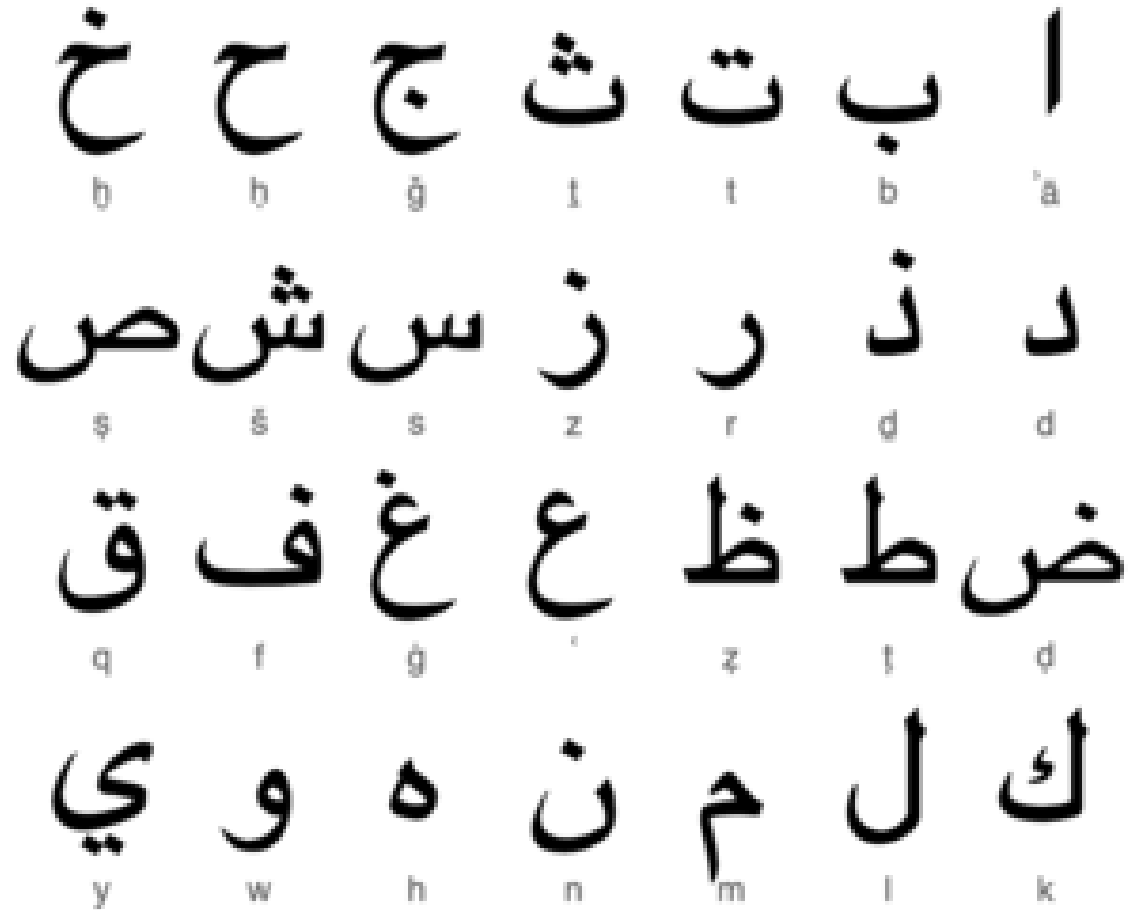
Iraq is the only nation to recognise
Kurdish officially

Standard Arabic is used for official
purposes

Mesopotamian Arabic is used by most of
the population (2 dialects)

Kurdish dialects

Minority languages



HISTORY

Early History

📌 Ancient Mesopotamia (c. 3500 BC - 500 BC)

Sumerians, Akkadians, Babylonians: Early civilizations in the region. Inventions such as writing (cuneiform) and advanced irrigation systems. Hammurabi's Code of Laws (c. 1754 BC), one of the earliest known legal codes. **Recommendation: SBS Mesopotamia: The Rise of Cities** (*Sunday July 7 830-9:30*)

📌 Persian and Hellenistic Period (500 BC - 3rd century AD)

Conquests by Persian empires, including the Achaemenids and Sassanids. Alexander the Great's conquest in 331 BC.

📌 Islamic Caliphates (7th - 13th centuries)

Rise of Islam and the Rashidun Caliphate. Golden Age of Islamic civilization, advancements in science, philosophy, and arts. Mongol invasion and destruction of Baghdad in 1258.

📌 Ottoman and Safavid Rule (16th - 19th centuries)

Ottoman Empire controls Iraq (16th - 20th centuries). Conflict with Safavid Persia. Emergence of distinct Kurdish identity.

More Recent History

📌 British Mandate and Independence (20th century)

World War I and the end of Ottoman rule. League of Nations mandates Iraq to the British Independence gained in 1932. Independence and Hashemite monarchy (1932 - 1958).

📌 Republic and Ba'athist Rule (20th century)

Overthrow of monarchy and establishment of republic (1958). Ba'ath Party rise to power and Saddam Hussein's regime (1979 - 2003). Iran-Iraq War (1980 - 1988) This war had profound effects on Iraq's economy and society. Gulf War (1990 - 1991). Iraq invaded Kuwait, leading to a US-led coalition driving Iraqi forces out of Kuwait

📌 Post-Saddam Iraq (21st century) 2003 invasion of Iraq by the United States and coalition forces.

Fall of Saddam Hussein's regime, establishment of new political order. Saddam Hussein is executed for crimes against humanity. Sectarian violence and insurgency, particularly 2003 - 2011.

2011 December - US completes troop pull-out. Rise of ISIS and its subsequent defeat (2014 - 2017). Iraq continues to face challenges related to security, governance and economic development, amidst ongoing political and social unrest. Six years after the war against the Islamic State, Iraq still faces significant challenges to its recover. Over one million people remain internally displaced while three million people need humanitarian assistance as Iraq continues its reconstruction. The coalition officially concluded its combat mission in Iraq in July 2021 2021, but U.S. troops remain in Iraq to advise, train, and assist Iraqi security forces against the ongoing ISIL insurgency, including providing air support and military aid. In July 2021, President Joe Biden announced that he would end the U.S. combat mission in Iraq by the end of 2021, with remaining U.S. troops serving in an advisory and assistance role. The U.S. combat mission formally concluded on 9 December 2021, with 2,500 U.S. troops remaining in the country



- SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT
- DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
- HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

- A federal **constitutional democracy**.
- The current President is Abdul Latef Rashid (October 2022)
- The Head of State is the President.
- The Head of Government is the Prime Minister, who appoints the Council of Ministers (Cabinet).
- There are **329 members of the Council** of Representatives who elect the President and the Prime Minister

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

- Australia has had diplomatic relations with Iraq in various forms since 1935
- Australia opened an Embassy in Baghdad in 1976 and Iraq established an Embassy in Canberra in 1995
- Australian Embassy in Baghdad closed in 1991 Iraqi Embassy closed in Canberra in 2003
- Both embassies re-opened in 2004

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- \$207 million in assistance to Iraq since 2014 to support humanitarian needs of vulnerable people, restore essential infrastructure and services, and contribute to building social cohesion in the aftermath of the conflict.
- Partners include: the **UN Development Programme** Financing Facility for Stabilisation (UNDP FFS), the **International Organisation for Migration** (IOM), and the **Building Peaceful Futures Consortium** led by Save the Children.
- The ADF together with New Zealand has trained over 47,000 Iraqi Security Personnel.
- Australia also provides personnel to the **NATO Mission Iraq's Headquarters**

CURRENT PROBLEMS FACING IRAQ

An Overview of the
Challenges in 2024

RECENT CHALLENGES

- US invasion of Iraq in 2003
- subsequent rise of insurgent groups
- ongoing political instability

POLITICAL INSTABILITY

- Struggle to establish stable and effective government.
- Fragmented political landscape
- Numerous factions vying for power
- Corruption

April 9, 2003

U.S. troops pulled down a six meter statue of President Hussein

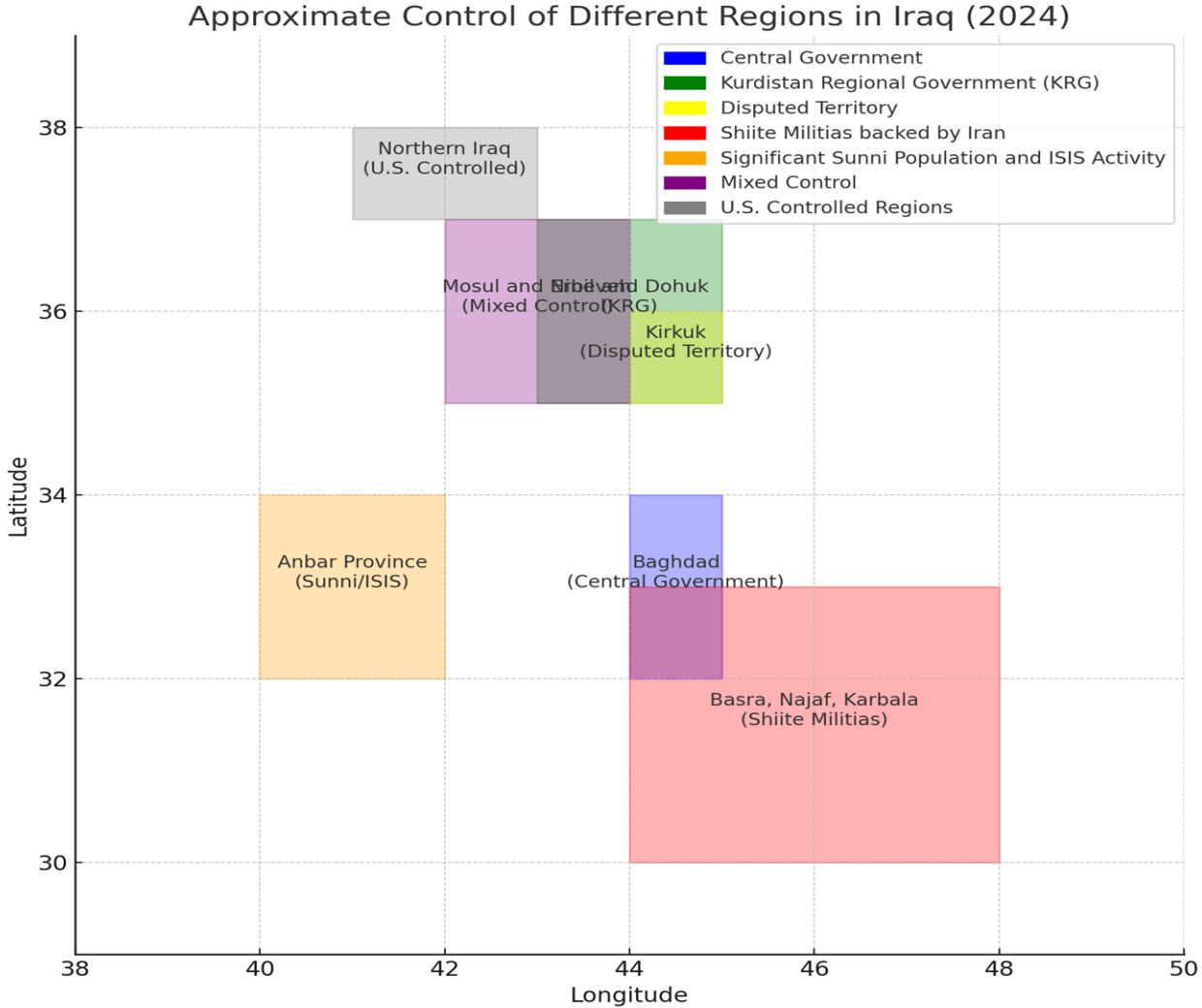
Iraqis danced on it in contempt for the man who ruled them with an iron grip for 24 years



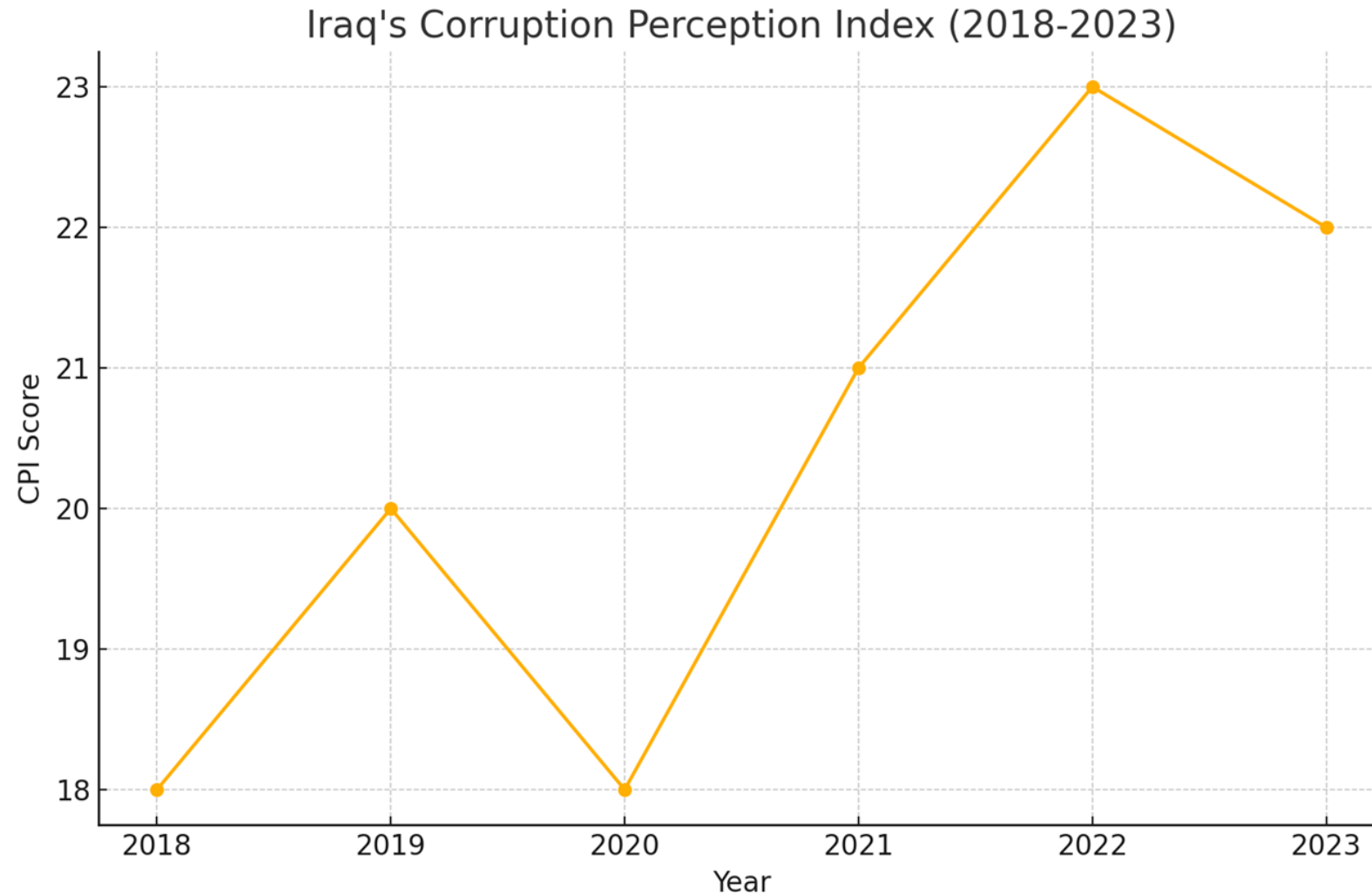
REGIONS OF IRAQ



Approximate control of different regions in Iraq 2024



CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX

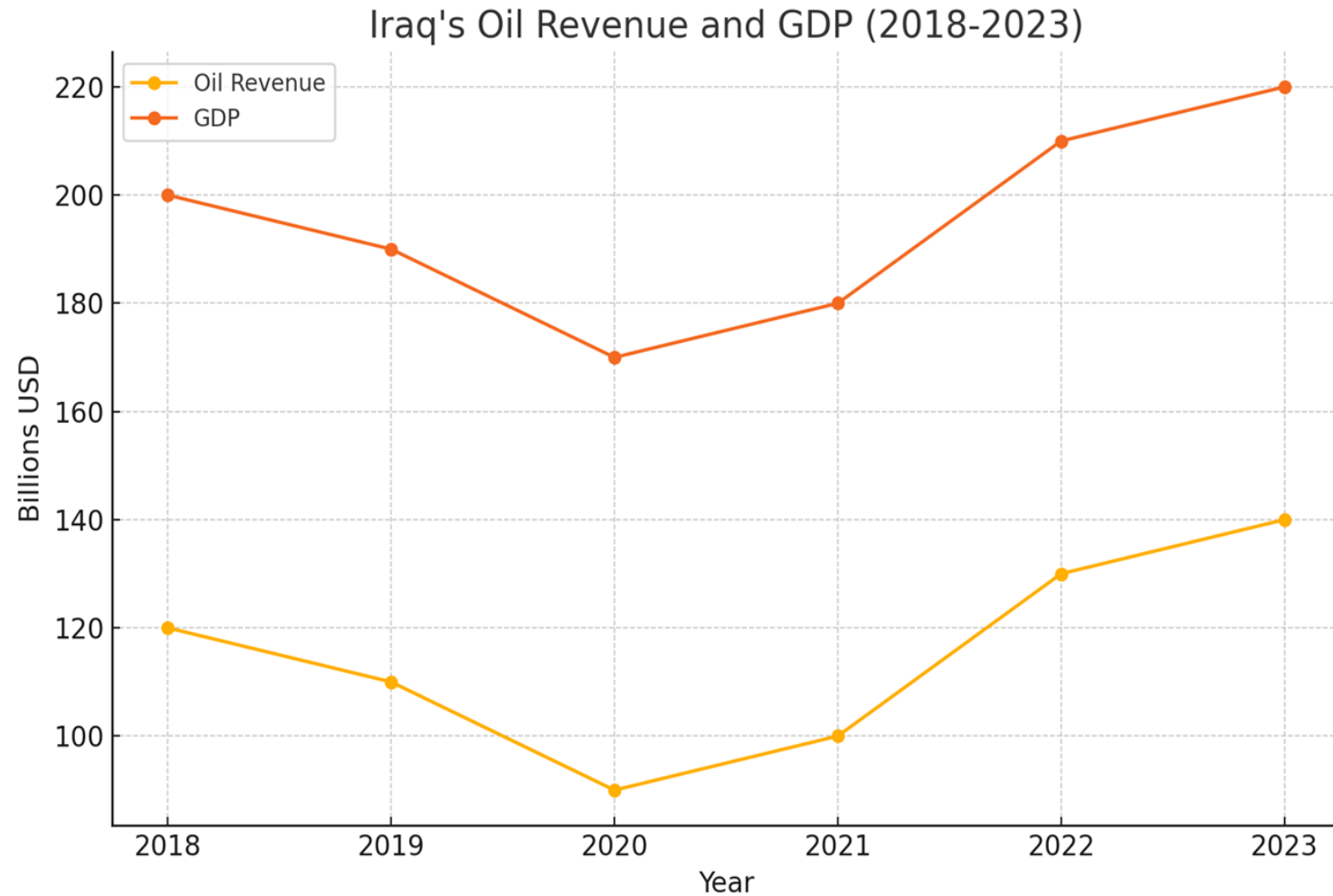


ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

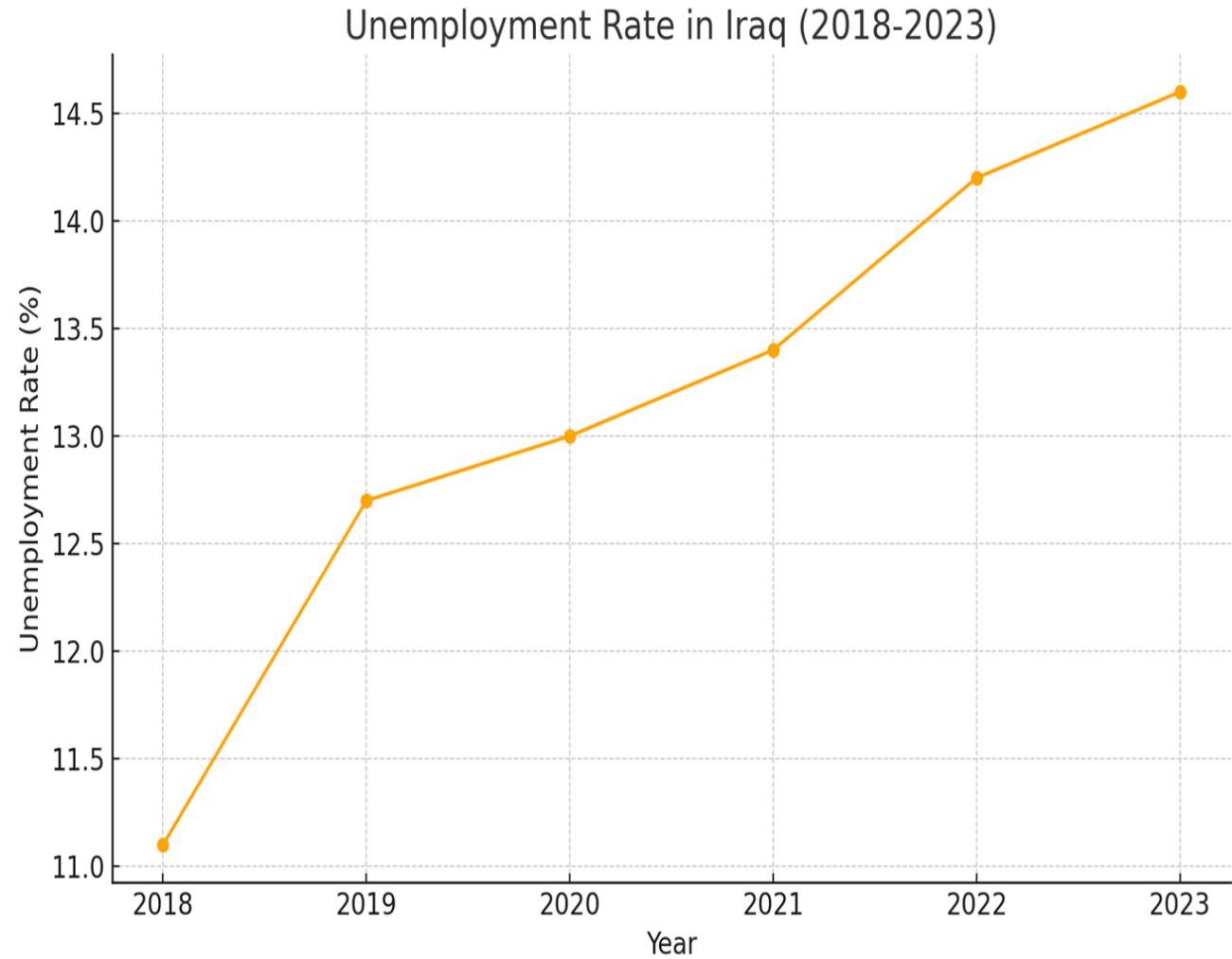
heavy dependence on oil exports; fluctuations in global oil prices



OIL REVENUE and GDP



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE





Iraqi University students protesting against the government - 2020

SOCIAL ISSUES

Multi-faceted; Deep; Sectarian divisions



SECURITY

- paramount concern
- ISIS insurgent attacks and sleeper cells
- Various armed militias, some backed by foreign powers

US SOLDIERS in IRAQ

2500 US military personnel remain in Iraq by invitation in an advisory role



ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES



IMPACTS OF DROUGHT AND CLIMATE CHANGE



WASTE HILL



IRAQ'S ANCIENT MARSHES



LIVELIHOODS and FOOD INSECURITY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4Syf4iiXGY>