



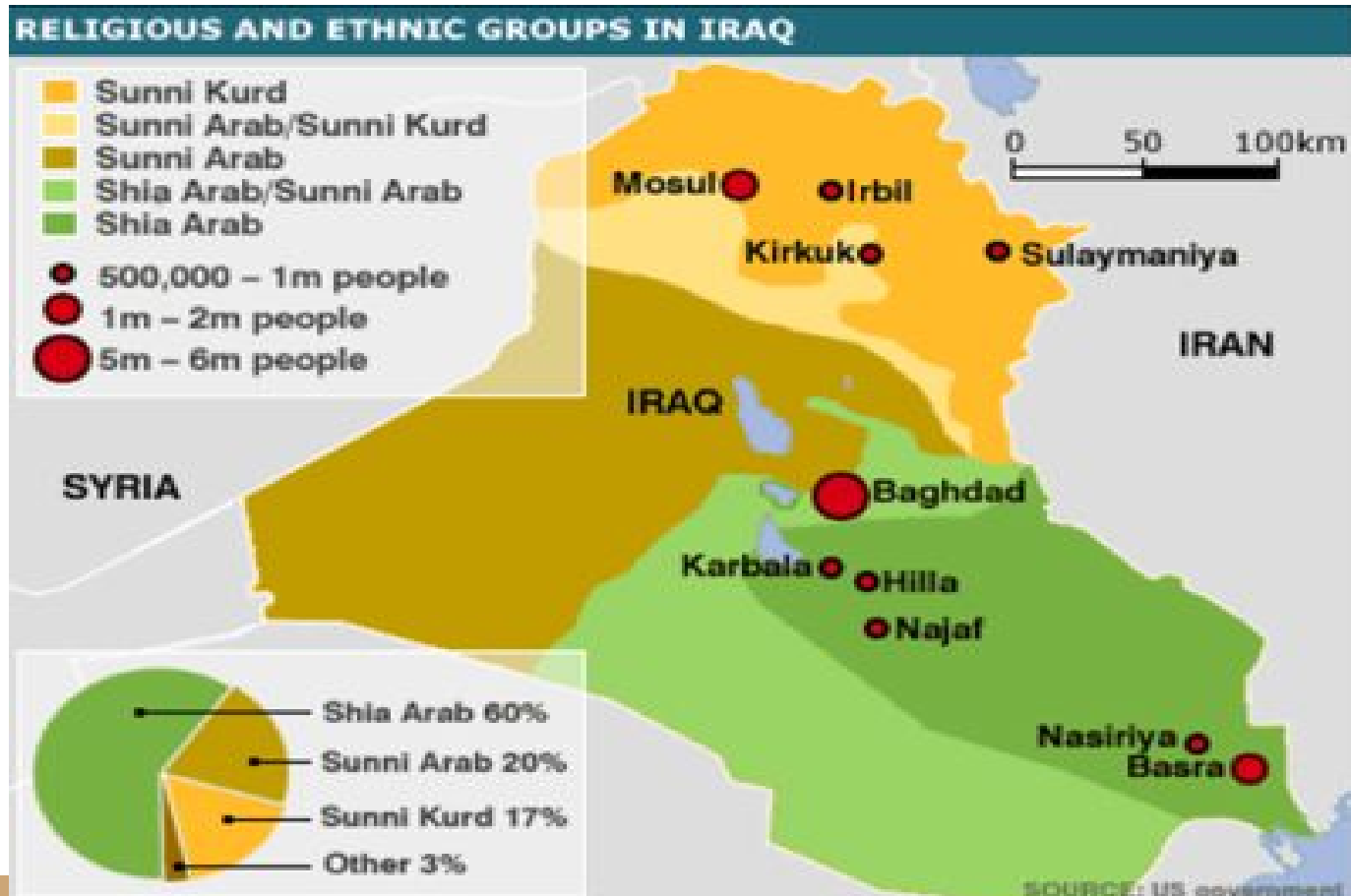
# The War in Iraq

The War on Terror

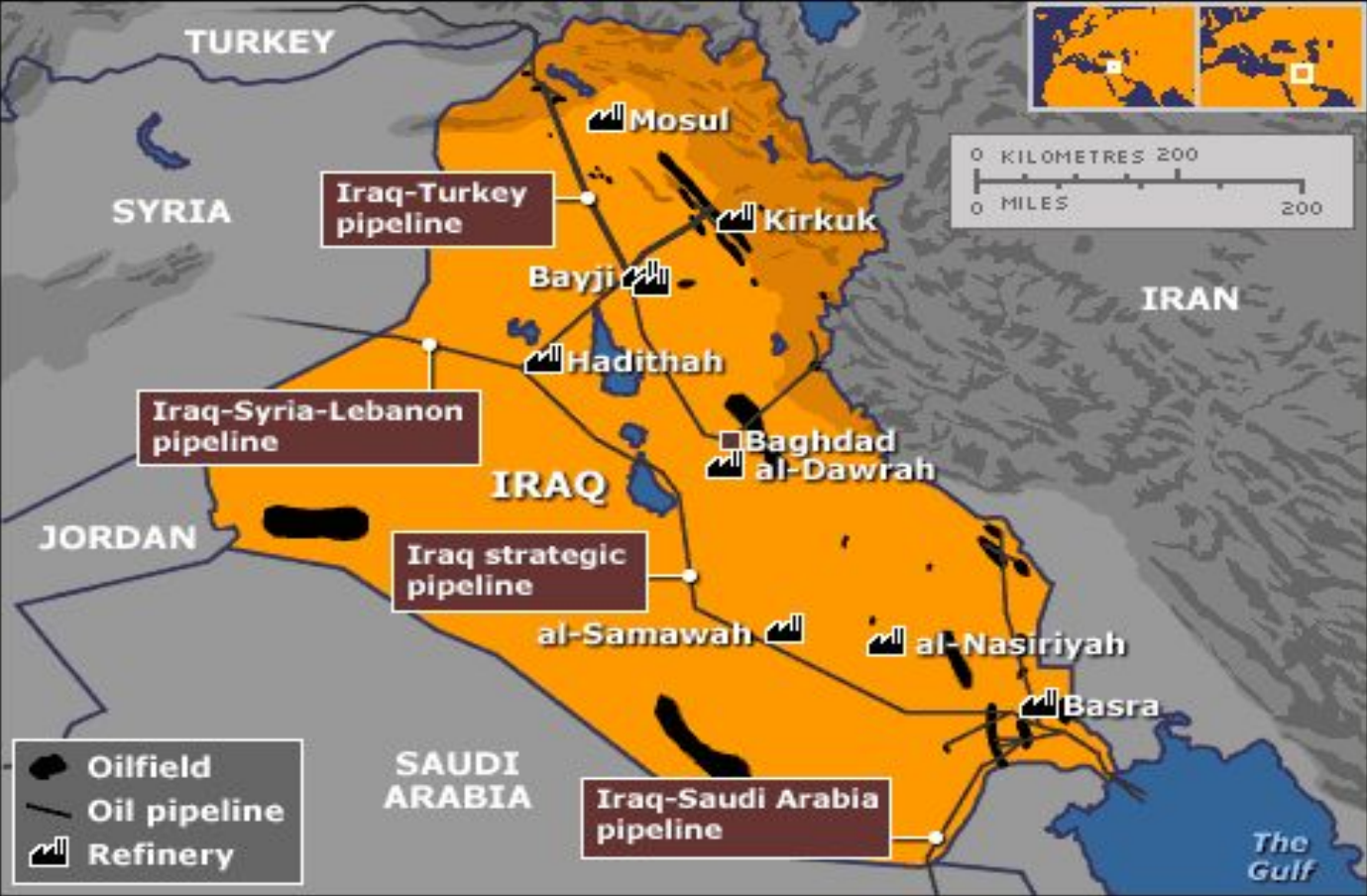


Daily Writing: How should the United States respond to the threat of terrorism at home or abroad? Should responses differ if the threat has not taken tangible shape but has the potential to?

# Iraqi Culture



# Iraqi Economy



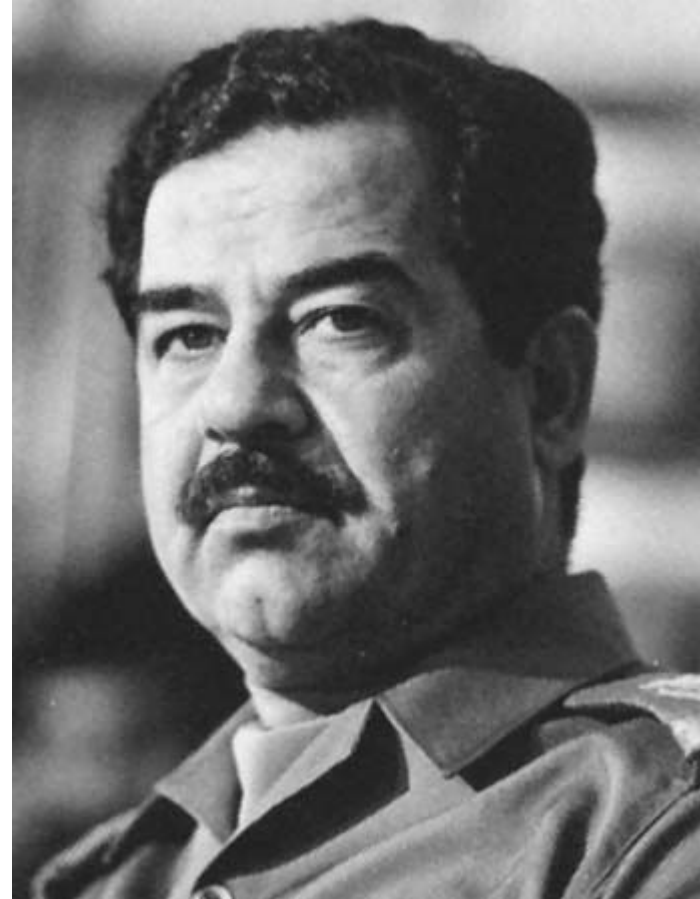
# Political History of Iraq

- Iraq is firmly within the “**Cradle of Civilization**” – Baghdad is a wealthy cultural center, key site of Islamic culture, politics, and history for many years
- **1534-1918** - **Ottoman rule** centered on provinces of Baghdad, Mosul, and Basra until the end of World War I.
- **1917** - Britain seizes control, unites provinces, creates state of Iraq
- **1932 - Independence:** King Faisal is placed in power, **Iraq is independent but must consult with Britain** before involving the UK in war.



# The Rise of the Ba'ath Party

- 1963: Ba'ath Party comes to power through a coup (military backed overthrow of power) and is led by Saddam Hussein
  - Thousands of political elites and communists are purged, U.S. sends weapons
- 1979: Saddam Hussein becomes president.
  - Had been popular for his role in helping to develop the country (building schools, hospitals, etc.) with the increased oil revenue the country was bringing in.



# Saddam Hussein



- Iraqi President: 1979-2003.
- Secular Government (Non-Religious)
  - Allowed women to hold high-ranking positions
  - Angered many religious conservatives
  - Feared Shi'a majority coming to power.
- Originally believed in Socialism but moved towards Capitalism.
- Relied on Secret Police & Force to maintain his power.



Iran-Iraq War:  
1980-1988

Iraq

Iran

Kuwait



Source: University of Texas





# Iran-Iraq War

- Iraq invades Iran in September 1980
- Hussein wants to end war quickly by concentrating on Iran's oil facilities.
- For the next 8 years, the war seesawed back and forth
- The U.S. supports Iraq's efforts – lends weapons and resources
- Cease-fire in 1988 – war claimed over 1 million lives, destroys key parts of Iraqi infrastructure, economy

# Kurdish Genocide



- Kurds align themselves with Iran during war, Saddam Hussein authorizes mass killings of Kurdish populations
- Killed between 50,000 and 100,000 Kurds, buried them in mass graves.
- In some parts of Kurdistan 90% of the villages were destroyed.
- Chemical weapons and bombs were used.

# Invasion of Kuwait

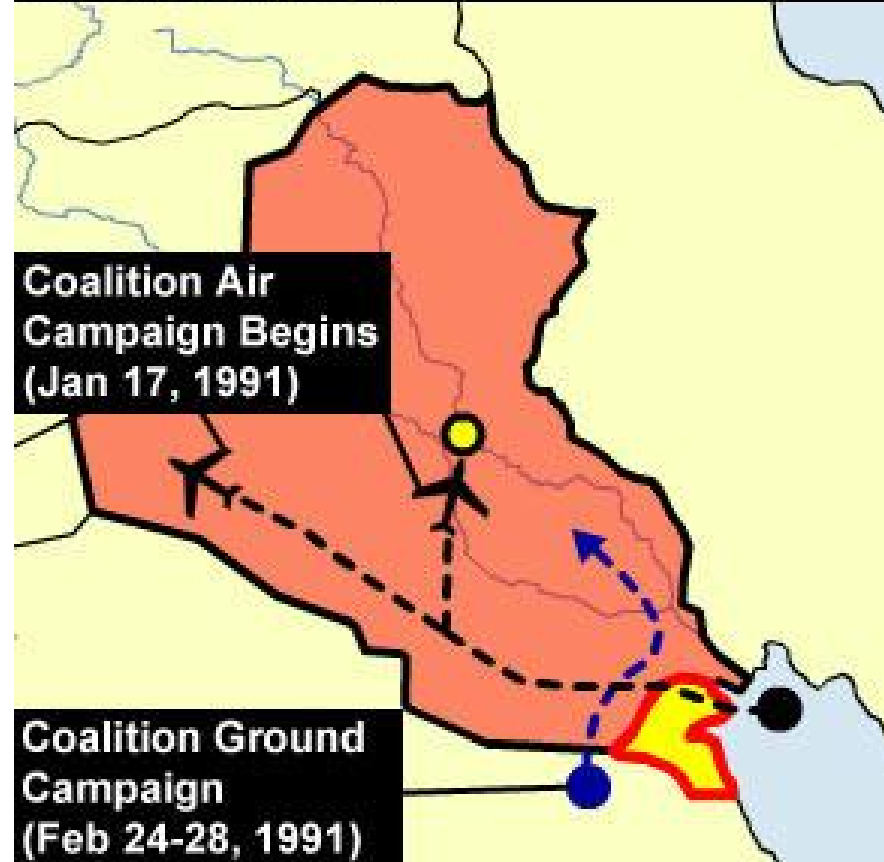
- 1990 - Iraq invades Kuwait, putting it on a collision course with the international community.
  - Hussein claims that Kuwait is accessing oil that rightfully belongs to Iraq
  - Concerns about invasion – possible casualties, potential for use of chemical weapons...but if Iraq gained control they would control 25% of the world's oil.
- 1991 - Iraq subjected to sanctions, weapons inspections and no-fly zones.



# The Gulf War

- President Bush moves quickly to gain approval to invade Iraq in January 1991
  - Late February 1991 – Ground troops enter Iraq, Kuwait's capital is retaken
- After 100 hours, Bush brings the ground war to a halt
  - Did not want to completely destabilize the country and then have to be responsible for rebuilding it
- Extremely lopsided war
  - 88,500 tons of bombs dropped. Military facilities, power stations, bridges, roads, hospitals targeted.

## Gulf War: US-Led Coalition Invades (1991)





# Results of the Gulf War

- Iraq lost
  - Guaranteed Kuwait sovereignty.
  - Agreed to surrender all Weapons of Mass Destruction: Nuclear, Chemical, Biological, etc.
  - Retreating Iraqi troops were ordered to set hundreds of Kuwaiti oil wells on fire, spill thousands of barrels of oil into Persian Gulf
- Saddam Hussein remained in power.
  - Many feel betrayed – like the U.S. left without finishing their work
- U.S. develops a greater presence in the region.
  - Bases in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, careful monitoring of Israel



Burning Kuwait Oil Fields

# Containment Policy

- U.S. follows a policy of containment, trying to stop Iraq from gaining meaningful power or weapons.
- Tools relied on to accomplish this goal:
  - Sanctions – Restrictions on international trade. Designed to harm Iraq's economy. Severely limited the amount of food supplies imported into the country
  - Military Force – Establishment of No-Fly Zones over some parts of Iraq. Designed to limit the violence that could be done to Kurdish and Shi'a populations
  - Weapons Inspections – UN Weapons Inspectors were supposed to regularly inspect Iraq for evidence of weapons of mass destruction.



Declaration of War: March 17, 2003



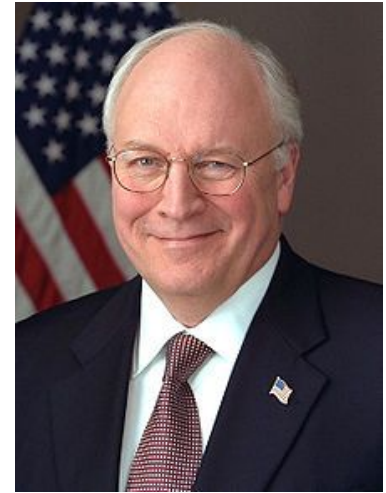
# September 11, 2001

- A series of terrorist attacks on 9/11 presents President George W. Bush (George H.W. Bush's son) with an immediate challenge of how to handle the Middle East
- Bush states that the U.S. will be engaging in a “global war on terrorism”  
Declared in his State of the Union address in January 2002 that the United States was fighting an “axis of evil” – North Korea, Iran, and Iraq.
- U.S. military actions reframed from a response to terrorism to a preventative action.
- Critics argue that the reasons for invading Iraq were too vague and open-ended.



# The Road to War

- VP Dick Cheney gives a speech in August 2002 stating that the U.S. had definitive intelligence that Iraq had WMDs
- Winter 2003 – Secretary of State Colin Powell delivers a presentation before the UN, arguing that the U.S. had intelligence pointing to the production of weapons of mass destruction and terrorist ties by the government of Iraq
- The UN charged to search Iraq for WMDs. They never find evidence of Iraqi WMDs and as such the UN does not support the US invasion.
- Despite debate about the credibility and strength of the evidence, Congress authorizes the U.S. to invade Iraq on October 11, 2002 (Operation Iraqi Freedom)
- Military begins buildup – cautions that according to their intelligence, an invasion would be extremely complicated and require more people than the government was estimating.



# WMDs - Weapons of Mass Destruction

The Bush administration presented a wide variety of evidence to support its case that Iraq possessed WMD and supported terrorism. Some intelligence experts has doubts about much of the information.

- **Aluminum Tubes:** US intercepted 3,000 aluminum tubes bound for Iraq in Jordan. The Bush administration argued these tubes were going to be used to produce nuclear weapons. Aluminum tubes can also be used for other purposes.
- **Uranium from Niger:** President Bush asserted that Iraq was trying to purchase materials from Niger that could be used to produce uranium. The CIA expressed doubts in the authenticity of the documents cited in the intelligence reports.
- **Drones:** In a 2002 speech, President Bush asserted that Hussein was developing drones that could deploy chemical and biological weapons.
- **Chemical and Biological Weapons:** Bush administration officials asserted that Iraq has stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons and factories for producing more. Their evidence came primarily from a few Iraqi informants whose reliability was uncertain.
- **Al Qaeda Connection:** Claimed Iraq was connected to Al Qaeda, and Hussein was also behind the September 11 attacks.



*The Economist* is an English-language weekly magazine-format newspaper owned by the Economist Group and edited at offices in London. Continuous publication began under its founder, James Wilson, in September 1843. In 2015 its average weekly circulation was a little over 1.5 million, about half of which were sold in the United States.

Kevin Kallaughter uses the pen name KAL and has been the in-house editorial cartoonist for *The Economist* since 1978. He produces weekly cartoons for *The Economist* and *The Baltimore Sun*. This cartoon was published on August 17, 2006 and won UK Cartoon of the Year in 2006.

# Responses

- The UN authorizes a final weapons check, which Iraq agrees to. UN inspectors find no evidence of WMDs.
- Support of U.S. public is high, but comes with conditions.
  - Some worry about potential losses and damage to allies in the region (Israel especially)
  - Desire to spread democracy by removing Ba'thist regime
  - Concern over going to war without UN approval
  - Doubts about evidence of WMDs
  - Prevent another tragedy like 9/11
- Strong opposition in the international community.
- Leads to the “largest protest in human history”
- 2003: [President Bush announces invasion of Iraq](#)