

The role of the great powers in formation of Iraq

MAHTAB JAFARI

M.A. in Political Geography, Department of Political Geography
Faculty of Geography, University of Tehran, Iran

MOHSEN ZAMANI

PhD student of Political Geography
Department of Political Geography, Faculty of Geography
University of Tehran, Iran

Abstract:

Iraq's idea for a separated state was initiatives that Britain had found the strategic importance of Mesopotamia. Prior to the creation of a state –Arabic Iraq, Baghdad, Basra and Mosul were provinces of the Ottoman Empire reigned, and there was not any request from native people to create Iraq government. Framing of Iraq's borders after world war 1 , were in the interests of the colonial power of the Britain, and regardless of the wishes of the people from the various ethnic groups (Kurdish, Arabs, Turkomans Assyrians) that the negligence caused insecurity both inside and outside the country `s borders and created many problems in the region.

The method used in this research is descriptive and analytic, this means that in addition to the data of occurrence of the phenomenon has been well described and analyzed. The question which was examined in this study is that framing of Iraq by Britain has had what impact on developments of Iraq and the Middle East. Indeed, Iraq has been made by Britain. Iraq situation was a strategic situation for Britain, because to be located on the trade route toward India and later because to obtain oil interests in Middle East. Then, because of various wars in the history of Iraq, the country has become a failed state, and certainly should be considered as one of the greatest historical mistakes.

Key words: great powers, colonialism, treaties and agreements, borders, Iraq

INTRODUCTION

Thinking of establishment's Iraq as a separated government was initiative of Britain, because to find strategic importance of Mesopotamia. Before establishment of the Iraq as an Arabian government, Baghdad, Basra and Mosul had been considered as the provinces of the Ottoman Empire.

There was not any demand to establish Iraq as a country from native people. Due to Britain's benefits of colonial authority, boundaries of Iraq were constituted after world war 1 without any regard to national demands of different groups [Kurdish, Arabs, Turkomans, Assyria].

This inattention caused to create insecurity, both on inner and outer of boundaries and, has made excessive problems in this region. In fact, Iraq has been made by the hands of Britain. Iraq situation was strategic for Britain, because of the fact that located on the trade route toward India, additionally, because of the obtaining British oil interests in Middle East. So that has been turned in to a defeated government due to happen different battles in during the history of Iraq, and certainly it must be counted as historical mistakes.

Indeed, Britain located Kurdish, Shiite and Sunnite Arabs in inner of artificial boundaries on the new country, that is called Iraq, without any regard to their demands, and without any consultation with them only based on own benefits. This new established country must be having undertaken benefits of Britain and devoted itself.

Due to inattention of Britain to demands of the ethnical-religious groups with different thoughtful-political tendencies caused to happen coup and different battles not only in inner country but also the neighboring countries and. So, because of the fact that each ethnical group along ruling country dictates

its interests to its rivals by force and arms and looks into the political opponents with hostile view. This ignoring in different classes of the ruling parties caused to fail nation-making government project and also making Iraq project with a powerful central system in different periods in this country.

METHODOLOGY

In this research, descriptive, historical and analytical method is applied. That means, in addition to the happening of incident's data, also the descriptive-analytic method is considered. In this research, the analysis method of this noticed subject is a descriptive- analytical method. This method is counted as a sort of applied researches. Generally, in the analytical researching is attempted to examine phenomena with regard to existence of relation between them [cause-effect relation] .With this method, problem or reason, that has application in this plan, is discovered. The existing information in this research is completed by library sources, thesis and relevant sites.

FINDINGS

Great powers

Great powers, these powers are most powerful international military governments since the vast reserves of resources to allow them in various fields of international behavior are too active. The government not only powerful but also the most active international players are (Griffiths, 2008:743) Governments seek to expand their power in the international arena as the ultimate goal In terms of American thinkers Morgenthau rely on power politics in the sense of using different pressure to force political opponents to accede to some of the demands and desires Circuit power politics in international relations refers to a system in which your country is your ultimate goal. Under this system, large or small country

are considered in terms of power. The power of countries is constantly changing. They often dedicate themselves to these changes through diplomacy and compromise with each other when the war is diplomacy fails. Internal and external resources and activities that can help national and international potential is power. Potential power comes from three main sources: natural and geographical conditions, social and mental attitude, human resources and industrial. By the same token counter the authorities to evict people from the field and achieve a monopoly of power, war and power struggle are considered (Aghabakhshi & Afsharirad,2004:536).

The concept of border

Discussion of the border is one of the important and applicable Scholars from various disciplines such as political science, international relations, international law, and have tried to understand and explain But to say the most important and key issues related to the border have been done by political geographers. The most important factor to recognize political borders and political separation unit consists of units other In addition, the existence of political unity in a land that is lines that may lack any natural or human unity is possible Borders, lines of credit and contract in order to delimitation of a polity that are on the earth. Frontiers of the major geopolitical issues are. If the purpose of government is a political unit, the lines that separated the territory of a neighboring state governments, are known to the international boundary (Mirheydar & others,2013:213). Prescott believes the border into a border line refers to a region or border area (Perescott , 1987 :13). But Glassner says the border is not a line but a level. Vertical line through space, earth and under the earth's neighboring countries separated, This line seems to be on the ground level (Glassner, 1993: 75). Border with objects look from the outside in the differentiation and separation Shows (Taylor, 1991: 145). Humans to determine on its activities, as it does not interfere with the range of activities neighbors, had to

determination of contract at the end and the surrounding environment or their territory. The concept of a peripheral line is extended such that the last part of the scope of activity of a nation highlights, And the political aspect finds, They called boundary (Mojtahedzadeh, 2002:40-41). In geopolitical border zone called the national government can exercise jurisdiction in which to make his land. Borders as part of the jurisdiction not only land but also the territorial waters, airspace and underground sources also indicate (Zarei,2012:281.) Limits within which a state exercises its sovereignty or territorial jurisdiction. Boundaries that define the scope of government authority not only be limited to a certain part of the soil surface Borders may be by negotiation, mediation, arbitration, public opinion, the decision of an international organization like the United Nations and acquisition through purchase or war will determine stabilized.

Various types of borders and the causes are

- 1- Natural cleaners such as rivers and mountains.
- 2- Cultural differences as social differences between India and Pakistan was significant that drawing borders.
- 3- Records and historical and political considerations such as the borders of many new African and Asian countries originally drawn by European colonial powers.
- 4- There boundaries because the military balance of forces such as the borders between Israel and its Arab neighbors, and between North Korea and South(pasta,2005:145).

Colonialism

The ruler of the region and its people by a foreign government that pursues its imperial policy. Historically the overall sample can be determined from colonialism. The first example was the migration of immigrants from the mother country to form a new political entity in the remote region. And the second one was imposing rule the indigenous peoples of Asia and Africa that

were underdeveloped in terms of technology. In both cases, the colonial military security, economic advantage and earn global recognition for imperial power was restored(pasta,2005:29).

The concept of neo-colonial conditions based on the argument that poor countries often when colonial powers were run under the banner of the era that lasted until the mid-twentieth century, it's better to have more freedom and people have not. The theory suggests the influence of powerful countries on countries that have not sufficiently developed is But there is also the suspicion that powerful countries are trying to take over the political affairs of poor countries to have on hand. The main three types of trade between major industrial countries of the Northern Hemisphere and Third World countries is ongoing. Above all it is a third world country is a major producer of agricultural products or mineral raw materials. It is said that the price of such products is usually dictated by rich countries and manufacturers have virtually powerless and helpless unless OPEC-like cartel like to be organized. The second is that the Third World countries provides brokers and the labor used to produce parts for consumer goods. Poor countries often have no money to invest in technical knowledge that they gain from the sale of finished products. The role of the Third World, this is a major market for products that the rich countries of the saturated market or production is stopped. Neo-colonialism has other aspects, but what these aspects relate to the conditions of development assistance, What is the role of banks in financing development or the impact of various regulations, such as GATT, In all these cases the weaker countries one hundred percent of the decisions that are taken elsewhere (Robertson,1996:21).

Iraq and its borders

Iraq is a country in the Middle East and Southwest Asia countries, South by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, Jordan and Syria, the West, the East with Iran and north with neighboring Turkey.Iraq in its southern region, bordering the Persian Gulf

small hydro have, And two rivers Tigris and Euphrates known that the origin of the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia in the history of this country from its north to its south are fluent, And by joining the Karun River, form the Shatt Al-Arab and the Persian Gulf to the ground. Iraq range 317/438 kilometers (fifty-eight countries and about a quarter of Iran) more smoothly and tropical Iraq. Iraq Desert West and the East fertile plains, but part of Iraqi Kurdistan (North East) is cold mountain. Iraq also one of the countries with oil resources. The country has 143 billion barrels of oil reserves are confirmed. Iraq's population of about 31 million people (Statistics 2009). Arabs 75% to 80%, Kurds 15 to 20 percent, Turkmen, Assyrians, etc. about 5 percent of Iraq's population are. About 60 to 65 percent of Iraqis are Shiites, 32 to 37 percent Sunni and 3% Christians and followers of other religions are. Iraq, led by Great Britain in 1919 Iraqi and Kurdish official languages Under the influence of topography, climate, soil, hydrology, population density Iraq and East South Central and Southeast regions, respectively, in the first place, in the North east and south West, the second and western regions, despite the wide range of third(Yahyapoor,2014:138-139). Iraq between 39 to 48 degrees east longitude and 29 degrees north latitude to 37 housed in the Middle East. The important rivers are the Tigris, Euphrates Shatt al-Arab Diyala River, creek former Diyala River, the Great Zab and Little Zab, Third Creek (formerly known as Saddam Channel), fourth Creek (my ex-Battles), fifth Creek (known as the Nahr Al Qadisiyah) . Iraq's border with Turkey, 350 kilometers, 618 kilometers Iraq, Syria, Iraq Baardn 145 km, 1,000 km of Iraq with Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait 200 km, 85 km and Iraq with Iran, Iraq Persian Gulf 1352 km is. The major ports of Iraq are: port of Basra, Faw and Umm Qasr port(Jafarinia,2011:61-62). In the Persian Gulf, where there is no peace process, disputes all Hstnd.sht a serious than al-Arab (Arvand River) has a long history as a hotspot Arab world and Iran. In recent years this waterway for oil exports from the port of both Iraq and Iran have been vital.

After years of wrangling, Iraq on the basis of the 1975 Algerian border, the two countries agreed that Iran is determined to profit, Instead, Iraq and Iran to stop supporting Kurdish rebels. Iraq canceled the agreement in 1980, and the war between Iran and Iraq that most of it occurred on the Shatt Al-Arab. In 1990, two weeks after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, Saddam Hussein retreating from his earlier position, agreed in 1975 announced itself to the implementation of the Agreement. The border between Iraq and Kuwait in 1962, Iraq claimed sovereignty over Kuwait was a cause of friction between the two countries. Territorial claims over the islands (Bubiyan Island) and (Varbeh) at the entrance to the port of Umm Qasr, Iraq is a strategic location on the border dispute near the oil field three miles (Romail) the two countries in March 1974 on the eve of a military conflict Contract. The difference, overriding justification for the invasion of Baghdad in August 1990 were considered to Kuwait. Iraq still seeks to exercise sovereignty over the islands in terms of strategic location and abundant oil reserves in the seabed as a result of economic interests. Iraq to Kuwait at different times for every one or both of the island's land swap proposed, And exchange of drinking water to Kuwait from the Shatt al-Arab (Arvand River) directly discussed but rejected all these suggestions Kuwait. Although Iraq formally recognized Kuwait's independence in 1994, but this was the identification of Hobson, And given the international situation, this action was done in the hope of picking up international sanctions. It seems clear that even if Saddam Hussein to lead a peaceful replaced, Kuwait against Iraq arising from border issues and rights to access to sea routes will continue. As long as an agreement on border issues openly and freely discuss Iraq and Kuwait, not Iraq continues to be a revisionist state(Kemp &Harkavy,2004:152-155). After the war seven years between England and France and the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1763, that the stripping rule of the royal family Borborn France from the Indian subcontinent and Canada and append them to attach two strategic island of the Mediterranean (Cyprus and

Malta) to England lasted. The British government, by suppressing all local protesters in 1766, the Indian subcontinent, completely turned to their colonies (Monthly Report, 2002: 31). In the early seventeenth century, the British were motivated by trade in the Persian Gulf. Ancient history of the British presence in the region coincided with a period of continuous conflict with European rivals, local powers and the Ottoman Empire was the 1747 British interests in the Persian Gulf was still monopolized by the East India Company and its agents. Britain to expand its business to carry out political and military launched a series of measures (Min,1991 :9). In 1764 AD, the UK is the first European country to establish a business office in Basra received the Ottoman Sultan and the British Permanent Representative Office opened in Baghdad. A few years later the British Embassy in Baghdad began (Yousefi, 2005: 31). Iraq's position in the way of business located in the West to India was important for the United Kingdom. With the expansion of the military, political and economic Britain during the nineteenth century Iraq in the Persian Gulf as part of the area was sensitive and strategic framework of colonial London. Because of the focus on the United Kingdom to Iraq in this period the Iraqi positions in the colonial rivalries between the great powers, including the rivalry between England and the Ottoman Empire, Britain and Russia was. The industrial revolution led to Europe between industrialized countries on the issue of access to raw materials and markets industrial products of the competition. Including areas where competition and conflict between colonists occurred, the Middle East (Yadeghari, 1983: 70). Therefore, apart from the importance of maintaining the crossroads of the Middle East to transit to India, as the mover of the British Empire and the British Empire was vital aspect should not be allowed to Middle Eastern oil fields to the enemy's powers (Cross, 1981: 247). At the beginning of the First World War, oil gained too much importance as an energy source (Valdani, 1990:133). Ottoman succession issue (the East) for more than a century dominated

the foreign policy of the Great Powers. In World War I, the Ottoman Empire weakened so was the inevitable consequence of the fragmentation of its territory by the Europeans went pedagogic. The role of competitor countries, particularly the British government in this regard undeniable (Zarghani, 2007: 161).

Writing agreement based on benefits of great powers that to lead to be constituted Iraq include

1-Sykes-Picot agreement: powers of appointment in world war 1 have greedy eyes to regions of the ottoman empire, and before ending the war, they confidentially divided regions of the ottoman empire in 16 may 1916. Agreement on the secret Sykes- Picot signed by Britain and French to divide regions of the Ottoman Empire between themselves. Of course Russia was aware of this project. Russia, initially was unwilling the French to appropriate any of the Emirates of the Kurdistan , but finally, Russia also accepted Sykes- Picot agreement , to adapt terms with Russia in September 1916.

Based on agreement on the secret Sykes-Picot, Britain, French and Russia wanted to divided East central among themselves that Russia discovered this transaction in the walk of Bolshevik Revolution.

2- Treaty of Sèvres: Based on Treaty of Sèvres in 1920 between Ottoman authorities and the victorious allies. It was part of what is now called Turkey that are occupied by the Greeks and Italians, and much of East Turkey are allocated to the Republic of Armenia. The emergence of a small government Kurdish, was provided to referendum. On 10 August 1920, in Sèvres the first treaty was signed between the Allies and the Ottoman Empire. Based on degrading treaty, the territory of the Ottoman Empire was limited to part of mainland Ottoman Anatolia. The signing of the treaty lead to emerge Turkish nationalist movements. The shooting was finished to end of the Ottoman Empire, that finally the rule of the Ottoman Empire was abolished in October 1923, and in the Turkish Republic was established.

3-Treaty of Lausanne: Turkish nationalist forces beginning with the help of the Russian Bolsheviks ruined Armenia`s newly enlarged and Armenia territory was limited to small territory of Armenia today in the Caucasus region. Then , turn came Greeks . In August 1921, Turkish nationalist forces, after a three – week battle, drove back Greeks to Sakarya River, and then on August 30, 1923 , their success was completed in war DVmlv pienzaar. Greek forces retreated to the Aegean sea . Finally , Turkish nationalist forces , on July 24, 1923 in Lausanne of Switzerland signed a new treaty with Allies. Based on new agreement, Turks withdrew strait of Dardanelles and Bosphorus, Istanbul, European part of Turkey the eastern shore of the Aegean sea, and Kurdish autonomous region was dissolved. Treaty of Lausanne 1923, disturbed all arrangements territorial treaty of serves and determined Turkey`s borders more as it is today. What in the treaty was not clear its assignment, was including Mosul, that originally the area was under French mandate. In 1925 supreme council of league Nations gave Mosul to the Iraq, and in 1926 treaty, Mosul, Turkey and Britain accepted new borders. Interestingly, the French for this reason was willing to give Mosul to great Britain, which in return will be able to act freely in Syria, and a share of the Iraq petroleum company. In drawing the boundaries further consideration to the interests of the great powers instead of national interests. Hence, due to the mismatching limits imposed with the human, ethnic, cultural, and religious characteristics, seeds of discord, future tension and conflict between the nations by the power is planned.

CONCLUSION

In fact, Iraq was constituted based on Great Britain`s politic and interests and from ruins of the Ottoman Empire after world war 1. Framing the country was from taking together of the three states Mosul, Baghdad and Basra, without any regard to ethnic demands, and regardless of the interest the ethnic

groups in the states, and it was based on a powerful kingdom system. The abolished of the monarchy system and replace it with the republic also did not open the node of problems in this country. Because, each group in during of the reign, dictated its own thoughts with the use of the force and did not pay attention to the demands of other groups. In fact, the only thing that was not considered in the country, build a system based on the nation- state. In addition, to the problems and civil wars, war with neighboring countries, including Iran and Kuwait, was among other problems that the newly established country in attempted to it. After the defeated of Saddam Hussein `s Baathist regime, under new system structure (Federal system) based on the new constitution in this country of the Alliance coalition forces led by the United States of America. Then again, then again, due to lack of correlation between the different groups, new problems and this time more different than the last arose in the country. The incidence suicide and terrorist acts, direct interference in the internal affairs of Iraq`s neighboring countries based on their interests, the emergence of terrorist groups (Dash) taking the part of northern Iraq are such these proceeding, that the situation is due to lack of unity among the ethnic groups in the country according to the project of nation-state building. The key and important point is the lack or failure of nation-state building process in Iraq, that can give rise all the problems inside and outside the country . What is the conclusion to be addressed on to note the United States of America`s presence in the Persian Gulf region and particularly Iraq after the withdrawal of Britain in 1970. In fact, the United States of America is looking for represented for a new Iraq based on own interests. According to the innovation, the various constituent peoples and states in Iraq must play an active role in all aspects of political, economic, cultural and military which also happens in the federal system. Otherwise, spilt and break new Iraq (Shiite and Sunni Arabs and Kurdistan) will be on the agenda , which is based on interested of America and a direct presence in the region .

REFERENCES

1. Abbas Nader, Kh(2004), The formation of Iraq, a week ashti, 2 Persian date Khordad Page 4.
2. Agha Bakhshi, A and Afshari rad, M(2003) , Culture Political Science, Tehran: Chapar publication.
3. Anonymous, Iraqi KURDISTAN 2001, Historical and political dynamic , view on political developments .nor 60.
4. Ayatee, A, Iraq national government and its impact on relations with Iran. Asretalaaii ,Hamshahri , diplomatic, half of June , 2005, page 34.
- 2-thought club, Wednesday, 12 December 2015 .
5. Bigdeli, A. (1988) Iraq `s political economic history. Bija.Publications MiraseMelal
6. Cross, C (1980), to Great Britain's declining empire of evil? Translation of Zandnia, Tehran , Iran zamin.
7. Etemad newspaper (2008), AS Wednesday 23 May .
8. Glassner, M. I. (1992), Political Geography, John Wiley & Sons, Canada
9. Griffiths, M (2008), Encyclopedia of International Relations and Global Politics, translated by Alireza Tayyeb, Tehran, Nei publication.
10. Hosseini, H (2003) Greater Middle East initiative, (Al Qaeda in the national security strategy of America) Tehran: Abrar Tehran Institute of contemporary International studies.
11. Islamic Revolution Document Center(2015), Saturday, 8 December .
12. Jafarinia, A, (1993) Iraq. Tehran research and training center press martyr general Sayyad Shirazi.
13. Jafari, valadani, A, (1990) The historical review of the Iraq – Iran border disputes, Tehran, political and international studies office.
14. Jalaaiipoor, H (1992), Kurdistan cause of the crisis continued after the Islamic Revolution 1978-1990 , Tehran : Ministry Foreign Affairs.

15. Kemp, G & Harkavy, R (2003) strategic geography and the Changing Middle East , Tehran : Institute for strategic studies.
16. Kochra, C (1997), the National Movement, the translation of Ibrahim Younesi, Tehran: Negah Institute Press.
17. Min, A (1990), Great Britain's interests in the Persian Gulf, Translated by Ali Rajabi Yazdi , Tehran : Amir Kabir.
18. Mir heidar, D & others (2014), Foundations of Geopolitics, Tehran , Samt Publications.
19. Monthly Gozaresh (2001), No. 142, January, Pages 31-37.
20. Mojtahedzadeh, P (2001), political geography and geopolitics, Tehran , Samt Publications.
21. Molla Omar Easa, S (2000), Abstract Creating crisis superpowers in Iraqi Kurdistan, Tehran, Tavakoli Publications.
22. - Monthly Mehrnameh(2012), No.11 , may .
23. Naghibzadeh, A (1990) , Developments in International Relations (Vienna Congress today), Tehran , Ghomes.
24. News analysis Hedana. Tuesday 11 December.
25. Posta, H, (2004) culture and international relations, printers: Nobahar.
26. Perscott, J.V. (1987), Political Frontiers & Boundaries, on Amazon.Co.Uk, London.
27. Robertson, David (1995), contemporary political culture, translation Kyavnd Aziz , Tehran, publisher Alborz.
28. Taylor, J.P.(1989), Political Geography, 2 nd. Ed, London.
29. Veisy, M (1996), The role of the major powers in Iraq (4) Salam, 27 February.
30. Visinch (1966), History of the Ottoman Empire, Translated by Soheil Azari, Tehran :Tehran Book store.
31. Wallach, J (2004). Queen of the Desert, Translated by MihanKhales. Tehran: NIK Book Store .
32. Yadegari, A, (1978), policy and colonial in the Middle East, Qom: Andishe Eslami Publication Center.
33. Yahyapoor, Mohamadsadegh. (2013), Geo analysis politic component affecting the border region between Iran and Iraqi Kurdistan, doctoral dissertation, Tehran, Tehran University.

34. Yoosefi, M, (2004), Report of Energy, Iraq, Tehran, Institute for International Energy Studies.
35. Zarei, B(2013), Political geography with an emphasis on the theoretical foundations of Islam and Iran, Tehran: Tehran University.
36. Zarghani, S (2006), Introduction to recognize international borders, Tehran University disciplinary, research aid
37. <http://www.donya-e-eqtasad.com/news/652373/>
38. <http://www.tebyan.net/index.aspx%3Fpid%3D194457>