



Iraq: The Human Cost of History

By Tareq Y. Ismael, William W. Haddad

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The people of Iraq have suffered for more than a decade from the most severe sanctions ever imposed on any nation in history. United Nations' sanctions against Iraq began in August 1990, as an attempt to force Iraq out of Kuwait. The contributors to this volume reveal why the sanctions regime has failed in its most basic aims, and ask serious questions about the real motivations of the powers involved -- notably the US and the UK.

The contributors explain how, if sanctions had been carefully applied, they could have worked. The massive bombing campaign of 1991 destroyed Iraq's social infrastructure. Sanctions should have been modified to meet the post-Gulf War environment. Also, the US and the UK refused to agree that sanctions would be lifted if Iraq complied -- left with little incentive to disarm, it is not surprising that Saddam Hussein did not cooperate.

Why did the sanctions continue if they did not fulfill their avowed purpose? The contributors argue that the real motives of the US and the UK were much more complex: instead of revolving around violations of human rights, terrorism and nuclear weapons proliferation, sanctions may have had more to do with political powerbroking and the danger that Iraq and Iran presented to US hegemony in the oil-rich Middle East. Assessing these and other related questions, the contributors put forward the idea that the current sanctions against Iraq are illegal under international law.

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Editorial Review

Review

The contributors to this volume include academics and human rights campaigners. they reveal why the sanctions regime failed in its most basic aims, and ask serious questions about the real motivations of the powers involved, notably the UK and US. -- Oxfam This book is a devastating critique of the sanctions regime imposed by the United Nations on Iraq in 1990. -- Journal of Commonwealth Lawyers' Association

About the Author

Tareq Y. Ismael is a professor of Political Science at the University of Calgary, Canada & President of the International Centre for Contemporary Middle East Studies at eastern Mediterranean University. His most recent works include Middle East Politics Today (2001), Turkey's Foreign Policy in the 21st Century (2003), & Iraq: The Human Cost of History (2003).

William W. Haddad is Professor and Chair of the Department of History, California State University, Fullerton.Â For over a decade, he was closely associated with Arab Studies Quarterly, serving as Editor-in-Chief from 1995-1998.

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