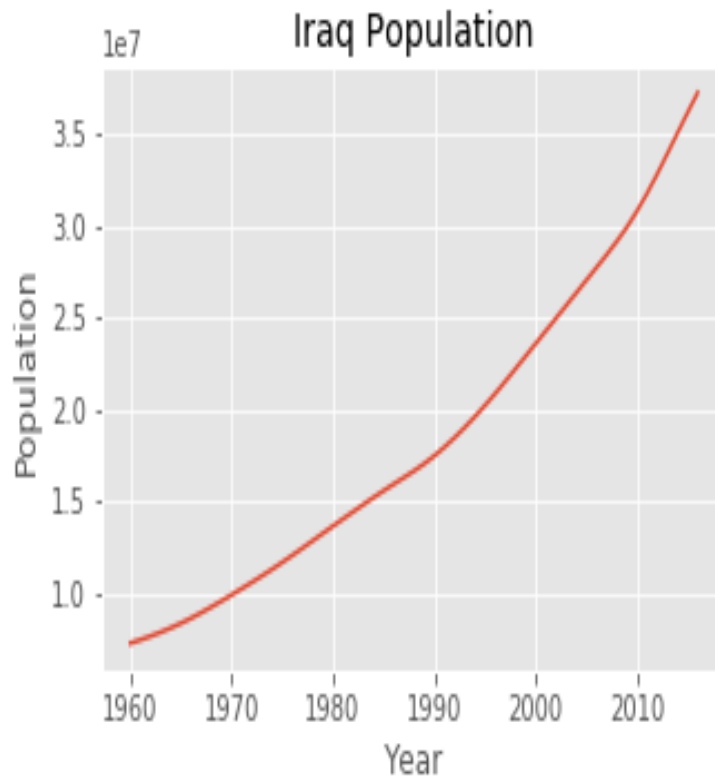


Iraq



Coordinates: 33°N 44°E﻿ / ﻿33°N 44°E﻿ / 33; 44Iraq (/ˈræk/, /ˈrʌk/ (listen) or /ɑːˈræk/

Arabic: ٱلْجُمْهُورِيَّة ٱلْعِرَاقِيَّة al-ʿIrāq; Kurdish: كۆماری عێراق Eraq), officially known as the Republic of Iraq (Arabic: ٱلْجُمْهُورِيَّة ٱلْعِرَاقِيَّة Jumhūrīyyat al-ʿIrāq; Kurdish: كۆماری عێراق Komari Eraq), is a country in Western Asia, bordered by Turkey to the north, Iran to the east, Kuwait to the southeast, Saudi Arabia to the south, Jordan to the southwest and Syria to the west. The capital, and largest city, is Baghdad. The main ethnic groups are Arabs and Kurds; others include Assyrians, Turkmen, Shabakis, Yazidis, Armenians, Mandeans, Circassians and Kawliya. Around 95% of the country's 37 million citizens are Muslims, with Christianity, Yarsan, Yezidism and Mandeism also present. The official languages of Iraq are Arabic and Kurdish. Iraq has a coastline measuring 58 km (36 miles) on the northern Persian Gulf and encompasses the Mesopotamian Alluvial Plain, the northwestern end of the Zagros mountain range and the eastern part of the Syrian Desert. Two major rivers, the Tigris and Euphrates, run south through Iraq and into the Shatt al-Arab near the Persian Gulf. These rivers provide Iraq with significant amounts of fertile land.