**1. Military Resources and Capabilities**

**Troop Strength:**

* **The Iraqi Armed Forces had approximately 375,000 active-duty soldiers**, but many were poorly trained and equipped.
* **The elite Republican Guard and Special Republican Guard, totaling around 80,000 troops, were the best-equipped units.**
* **Fedayeen Saddam paramilitary forces engaged in urban resistance and guerrilla warfare tactics.**
* **Morale varied significantly, with some forces fighting to the death while others surrendered or fled.**

**Equipment and Technology:**

* **Main battle tanks included outdated Soviet-made T-55s and T-72s, which were inferior to U.S. M1 Abrams tanks.**
* **Limited anti-aircraft defenses, mostly old Soviet and French systems, were ineffective against U.S. air superiority.**
* **Artillery units had a mix of older Soviet and Chinese-made systems with limited precision capabilities.**
* **Iraqi forces lacked modern electronic warfare and night-vision technology.**

**Logistics and Supply Chains:**

* **Iraqi supply lines were severely disrupted by Coalition airstrikes before and during the battle.**
* **Fuel and ammunition shortages crippled defensive operations.**
* **Lack of effective logistical coordination led to disorganization and confusion among Iraqi troops.**

**Intelligence and Surveillance:**

* **Iraqi intelligence agencies, including the Mukhabarat, were active in Baghdad but lacked real-time battlefield surveillance.**
* **Limited use of reconnaissance aircraft and drones.**
* **Iraqi forces struggled to intercept and analyze U.S. military communications.**

**Cyber Warfare:**

* **Iraq had no significant cyber capabilities.**
* **The U.S. used cyber operations to disrupt Iraqi command and control infrastructure.**

**Nuclear Capabilities:**

* **Iraq had no nuclear weapons, and its nuclear program had been dismantled after the 1991 Gulf War.**

**2. Economic Resources**

**Defense Budget:**

* **Iraq had a significantly smaller defense budget compared to the U.S. and its allies.**
* **Economic sanctions imposed after the Gulf War severely weakened Iraq’s ability to modernize its military.**

**Industrial Base:**

* **Iraq had limited domestic arms production and relied heavily on imported Soviet, Chinese, and French weaponry.**
* **Many military factories were damaged or destroyed by airstrikes prior to the battle.**

**Resource Availability:**

* **Iraq had vast oil reserves, but its ability to extract and refine oil was limited due to war and sanctions.**
* **Fuel shortages became a major issue during the battle.**

**Economic Resilience:**

* **The Iraqi economy was struggling under U.S. and UN sanctions.**
* **There was minimal economic capacity to sustain prolonged conflict.**

**3. Geographic and Environmental Factors**

**Terrain:**

* **Baghdad’s urban environment provided natural defenses for guerrilla warfare and ambush tactics.**
* **Bridges, highways, and waterways allowed for movement but were heavily targeted by U.S. strikes.**

**Climate and Weather:**

* **Hot desert conditions posed challenges for extended combat operations.**
* **Sandstorms occasionally provided temporary concealment from airstrikes.**

**Strategic Location:**

* **Baghdad was the political and military center of Iraq, making its fall the key objective for the U.S.**
* **Loss of Baghdad meant the collapse of the central government and military command.**

**4. Political and Diplomatic Resources**

**Alliances and Partnerships:**

* **Iraq had no significant foreign military allies in the war.**
* **Some non-state actors and militant groups provided limited support but had minimal impact on conventional warfare.**

**International Law and Norms:**

* **Iraq framed its defense as resistance against foreign invasion and imperialism.**
* **International support for Iraq was limited, as Saddam’s regime had little diplomatic backing.**

**Domestic Political Support:**

* **Saddam Hussein maintained control through fear and repression.**
* **Loyalists within the Republican Guard were committed to defending the regime, while other units were less motivated.**
* **Public opinion was divided, with many Iraqis opposing the regime but also resisting foreign occupation.**

**5. Human and Social Resources**

**Population Size and Demographics:**

* **Iraq had a population of about 25 million, with many conscripted into military service.**
* **Most combat forces were young men with minimal formal training.**

**Morale and Cohesion:**

* **Morale varied widely; elite units were committed, but many regular army soldiers surrendered without fighting.**
* **Widespread fear of U.S. firepower led to mass desertions.**

**Education and Skills:**

* **Iraqi officers were trained in Soviet-style tactics but lacked experience against modern Western forces.**
* **Lack of technical expertise in electronic warfare and precision weapons.**

**6. Technological and Scientific Capabilities**

**Research and Development (R&D):**

* **Iraq had minimal investment in military research due to sanctions and war.**
* **The country lacked the capacity to develop advanced weapons or modern defense systems.**

**Space Capabilities:**

* **Iraq had no military space capabilities.**

**Artificial Intelligence (AI):**

* **Not applicable.**

**7. Energy and Infrastructure**

**Energy Security:**

* **Iraq had vast oil resources but lacked refining capabilities.**
* **Coalition airstrikes severely disrupted Iraq’s fuel supply.**

**Transportation Networks:**

* **Major roads and bridges were damaged or blocked by U.S. forces.**
* **Supply convoys were highly vulnerable to airstrikes and sabotage.**

**Communication Systems:**

* **Iraqi military communications were outdated and easily intercepted by U.S. forces.**
* **U.S. cyber warfare attacks further crippled command and control systems.**

**8. Cultural and Psychological Factors**

**National Will:**

* **The Iraqi government tried to rally citizens with nationalist propaganda.**
* **Many Iraqis opposed the regime but also did not welcome foreign occupation.**

**Psychological Resilience:**

* **Iraqi forces faced severe psychological pressure due to overwhelming U.S. firepower.**
* **Desertions increased as the battle progressed.**

**9. Legal and Ethical Considerations**

**Compliance with International Law:**

* **Iraq attempted to justify its defense as self-preservation.**
* **However, Saddam’s government had a history of human rights violations.**

**Ethical Implications:**

* **Use of human shields and civilian areas for military operations raised ethical concerns.**
* **Reports of mistreatment of prisoners by both sides emerged after the battle.**

**10. Adversary Analysis (Specific to the US-led Coalition)**

**Enemy Capabilities:**

* **The U.S. had overwhelming technological superiority.**
* **Air superiority, precision-guided munitions, and armored warfare gave Coalition forces an unchallenged advantage.**

**Enemy Alliances:**

* **The U.S. had strong international support, despite opposition from some countries.**
* **The Coalition had logistical hubs in Kuwait and other regional bases.**

**Enemy Strategy and Tactics:**

* **Coalition forces used a combination of shock-and-awe bombing campaigns, rapid armored advances, and special forces.**
* **Psychological warfare, including leaflet drops and radio broadcasts, aimed to demoralize Iraqi forces.**

**Key Questions Before Engaging in War (For Iraq during the Battle of Baghdad)**

**Objectives:**

* **Defend Baghdad and prolong the war to force international pressure against the U.S. invasion.**
* **Prevent the collapse of the Iraqi government and maintain control over the country.**

**Cost-Benefit Analysis:**

* **Defending Baghdad was essential for the survival of the regime, but overwhelming U.S. force made victory impossible.**
* **The failure to modernize the military left Iraq at a severe disadvantage.**

**Exit Strategy:**

* **Iraqi leadership had no clear exit strategy, leading to disorganized retreats and regime collapse.**

**Risk Assessment:**

* **The likelihood of defeat was extremely high due to U.S. technological and logistical superiority.**
* **Failure led to the fall of Saddam Hussein’s government and long-term instability in Iraq.**