

*The first edition of AMBMUN (2024)*  
*presents:*

**Arab League  
(AL)**

**Background Guide**



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## *Welcome Letter*

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Arab League Committee! It is our great pleasure to welcome you all to the Arab League Conference at AMBMUN. We are honoured to have you here with us to discuss the many issues facing the Arab world today.

Arab countries have historically been a center of science and culture, but in the past years, the Arab region has been exposed to many difficulties and political complications, which the United Nations intervened in by opening the League of Arab States, which had only seven members. However, throughout the passage of time, the Arab League became larger with currently 22 members on board. The Arab League has become the first core for diplomatic meetings and political discussions between Arab countries to assist all Arab citizens.

During the conference, the focus will be specifically on the issue of the intervention of the American forces in the Arab countries, as these forces – along with other Western forces – have interfered in many Arab issues such as the Palestinian dispute, the Iraqi invasion, and regional wars.

To make the most of your experience at the AMBMUN Arab League Conference, we hope you will be prepared by thoroughly researching this topic: “Was the United States Invasion of Iraq a Strategic Misstep Considering its Regional Consequences” and reading the committee's guide. It is important to respect the opinions and ideas of other delegates because you represent the country in the best way possible. Be willing to negotiate with fellow representatives. Finally, actively participating in all discussions and activities will help you ally with others and gain a deeper understanding of the issues at hand.

It is our pleasure to welcome you to AMBMUN, please feel free to contact us via email in case of any inquiries. Note that the position paper must be emailed to all chairs (see emails above).

With our wishes of good luck and success

Your chairs,

Abdulrazaq Fayadh, Sami Rastegar, and Zeinab Ramadan

*Background and history on the topic:*

In 2003, the United States, supported by a coalition of allies, launched a military intervention in Iraq, marking the beginning of the Iraq War. The primary justifications put forth by the Bush administration were twofold: the belief that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), and the assertion that Saddam Hussein's regime was linked to terrorist organizations, including Al-Qaeda.

The alleged presence of WMDs became a focal point, with the Bush administration arguing that Iraq's possession of such weapons posed an imminent threat to global security. The 9/11 attacks further fueled the narrative, even though no direct evidence linked Iraq to the terrorist acts.

The invasion and subsequent occupation resulted in significant human, economic, and political costs. On the Iraqi side, civilian casualties were substantial, and the country's infrastructure was severely damaged. The conflict led to a power vacuum, creating fertile ground for insurgency and sectarian violence.

For the United States and its allies, the war came at a high cost both in terms of lives lost and financial resources expended. The failure to find WMDs undermined the credibility of the invasion, leading to widespread criticism and strained international relations.

Other regions globally got affected by the conflict, such as Syria which faced diplomatic tensions with the U.S. due to accusations of harbouring Iraqi officials and allowing foreign fighters to enter Iraq. The invasion indirectly increased instability in the region, impacting Syrian relations with the U.S.

Yemen: Yemen experienced increased radicalization and anti-American sentiments, contributing to the growth of extremist groups. The invasion indirectly affected Yemen's internal stability.

Saudi Arabia: The invasion strained Saudi-U.S. relations due to differing views on Iraq. The presence of U.S. troops in the region fueled domestic discontent and radicalization.

UAE: Like Saudi Arabia, the UAE had strained relations with the U.S. over the invasion, but it later sought to normalize ties to secure economic benefits.

Algeria: Algeria opposed the invasion, fearing it would lead to regional instability. The conflict's aftermath influenced Algeria's cautious approach to regional dynamics.

Lebanon: Lebanon faced the consequences of regional instability, with the rise of sectarian tensions impacting its delicate political balance.

Russia: Russia opposed the invasion, viewing it as a breach of international law. The aftermath fueled concerns about U.S. unilateralism and its impact on global stability.

Turkey: Turkey's refusal to allow U.S. troops to deploy through its territory strained U.S.-Turkish relations. The invasion had economic repercussions for Turkey due to disrupted trade routes.

Morocco: Morocco supported the U.S. invasion, enhancing its relations with the West. However, it faced domestic opposition, and concerns about regional instability affected its foreign policy.

The invasion had profound and lasting effects on the Middle East. The removal of Saddam Hussein destabilized the region, leading to sectarian tensions and the rise of extremist groups. Iraq descended into a protracted insurgency, further complicated by a lack of effective governance.

The aftermath of the Iraq War also had implications for neighboring countries. The conflict contributed to the strengthening of Iran's influence in the region, as Iraq, once a counterbalance to Iranian power, became entangled in internal strife.

The destabilization caused by the Iraq War had a ripple effect, laying the groundwork for subsequent conflicts and uprisings in the Middle East, including the Arab Spring in 2011.

In hindsight, the invasion of Iraq remains a highly contentious and debated chapter in contemporary history, with many questioning the decision-making process, the intelligence used to justify the war, and the long-term consequences for the region.

### *Current Situation:*

Iraq has experienced prolonged instability since the invasion. The dismantling of the Iraqi military and the Baath party created a power vacuum, which groups like the Islamic State exploited, leading to years of conflict. Although most foreign troops have withdrawn, about 2,500 U.S. troops remain to assist the Iraqi military. Sectarian tensions among Sunni, Shiite, and Kurdish groups have posed significant challenges, affecting the stability of the new government. The political landscape has seen shifts, with parties led by prominent Shiite clerics becoming more prominent, raising questions about external influence in Baghdad. However, political crises, including the assassination attempt on a key political figure and subsequent shifts in power, have characterized recent years.

The current leadership in Iraq marks the latest stage in Iraq's political development. The government, seen as pro-Iran, has adopted a balanced approach, keeping a small U.S. military presence while dealing with ongoing challenges like sectarian tensions, the threat of ISIS resurgence, and economic and infrastructure issues.

Regionally, the war has significantly benefited Iran, which has gained influence in Iraq. The war also strengthened groups and organizations such as al-Qaeda and ISIS, leading to further regional instability. The invasion has resulted in a wider loss of trust in US and UK credibility internationally, affecting their global diplomatic and security policies.

Economically, Iraq faces a conflicting situation. Despite significant oil revenues, corruption, and mismanagement have resulted in limited public benefits, with much of the revenue either misappropriated or used inefficiently. This situation mirrors the broader challenges of post-invasion governance and rebuilding efforts.

Twenty years after the invasion, Iraq is struggling with internal political, economic, and social challenges, while the regional effects of the invasion have reshaped Middle Eastern geopolitics, impacting US and global interests. The ongoing instability, sectarian divisions, and the influence of external actors like Iran continue to shape Iraq's unstable situation.

*Questions a resolution must answer*

- I. What can be done to hold Western powers responsible for their invasion of a less-capable region?
- II. What roles does the international community have in regard to the situation? How can the Arab League have a positive, significant impact on resolving the Middle Eastern conflict?
- III. What steps can be taken to promote cooperation and peace between the West and the Middle East, given the history of conflict between both sides?
- IV. How can the history and memory of Middle Eastern culture be preserved and passed on to future generations so the upcoming wave of Middle Easterners persevere against attacks on their traditions?

*Starter Sources*

- <https://www.e-ir.info/2018/11/25/the-united-nations-and-middle-eastern-security/>
- <https://www.mei.edu/publications/putting-diplomacy-first-middle-east-creating-incentives-de-escalation>
- <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/the-long-lasting-impact-of-the-u-s-invasion-of-iraq>
- <http://sam.gov.tr/pdf/perceptions/Volume-XII/spring-2007/Raymond-Hinnebusch.pdf>

*Country Matrix:*

1. Republic of Iraq
2. United States of America
3. Syrian Arab Republic
4. Republic of Yemen
5. State of Libya
6. Republic of the Sudan
7. Kingdom of Morocco
8. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
9. United Arab Emirates
10. Republic of Tunisia
11. State of Palestine
12. Russian Federation
13. Republic of Turkey
14. Arab Republic of Egypt
15. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
16. Islamic Republic of Iran
17. State of Kuwait
18. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
19. Lebanese Republic
20. People's Democratic Republic of Algeria