

Why Russia's Great Power Game in Iraq Matters

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Aug 31, 2020

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Moscow's quietly growing influence will only prop up the country's anti-American forces and worsen its struggles with corruption and ethnosectarian tension.

The United States has invested hundreds of billions of dollars in Iraqi security but increasingly faces competition for influence in Iraq from Russia. Moscow is playing a broad—though quiet—geopolitical game. What's worse, this advancement has gone unanswered by top policymakers in Washington. Iraq is now led by a pro-American president and prime minister, Barham Salih and Mustafa al-Kadhimi, but the Kremlin knows they are in a precarious position and will continue to quietly vie for influence in the country. In light of al-Kadhimi's visit to Washington last month, and the importance of broadening the US-Iraq relationship, Russia's interests matter...

[Read the full article on the National Interest website. \(https://nationalinterest.org/blog/middle-east-watch/why-russia%E2%80%99s-great-power-game-iraq-matters-%C2%A0-168051\)](https://nationalinterest.org/blog/middle-east-watch/why-russia%E2%80%99s-great-power-game-iraq-matters-%C2%A0-168051) ❖

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