

# Twenty Years After the War, Iraq Needs U.S. Support

by [Bilal Wahab \(/experts/bilal-wahab\)](#)

Apr 19, 2023

*Also published in Wall Street Journal*

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[Bilal Wahab \(/experts/bilal-wahab\)](#)

Bilal Wahab is the Nathan and Esther K. Wagner Fellow at The Washington Institute.



Articles & Testimony

**Much like the Iraqi people are doing, the United States should turn the page on history, engaging on ideas that foster prosperity and enable the relationship's long-term success.**

**A**s America marked the 20th anniversary of its invasion of Iraq last month, Washington was consumed by the same questions that have daunted it for two decades. Yet while Americans are fixated on their past, Iraqis are increasingly focused on their future. Today, Iraqis complain about traffic jams instead of car bombs. Cranes dot skylines of major cities, each of which wants an international airport, revealing Iraqis' hunger to integrate with the world. With over half its population under 25, the youthful nation has little memory of the previous regime and demands a better life befitting Iraq's potential and wealth...

[Read the full article on the Wall Street Journal website. \(https://www.wsj.com/articles/twenty-years-after-the-war-iraq-needs-u-s-support-militias-sulaimani-forum-baghdad-economy-climate-change-iran-corruption-f39550aa?mod=opinion\\_lead\\_pos7\)](https://www.wsj.com/articles/twenty-years-after-the-war-iraq-needs-u-s-support-militias-sulaimani-forum-baghdad-economy-climate-change-iran-corruption-f39550aa?mod=opinion_lead_pos7)

## RECOMMENDED



## IN-DEPTH REPORTS

### Turkey's Pivotal 2023 Elections:

*Issues, Potential Outcomes, and What Comes After*

Apr 19, 2023

◆  
Soner Cagaptay  
(/policy-analysis/turkeys-pivotal-2023-elections-issues-potential-outcomes-and-what-comes-after)



## BRIEF ANALYSIS

### Repatriation from Northeast Syria and the Effort to Counter Violent Extremism

Apr 19, 2023

◆  
Ian Moss  
(/policy-analysis/repatriation-northeast-syria-and-effort-counter-violent-extremism)



## BRIEF ANALYSIS

### U.S. Deploys Cruise Missile Submarine to Strengthen Deterrence Against Iran

Apr 14, 2023

◆  
Farzin Nadimi  
(/policy-analysis/us-deploys-cruise-missile-submarine-strengthen-deterrence-against-iran)

## TOPICS

Arab & Islamic Politics (/policy-analysis/arab-islamic-politics)

Energy & Economics (/policy-analysis/energy-economics)

## REGIONS & COUNTRIES

Iraq (/policy-analysis/iraq)

