

Iraq Is Quietly Falling Apart

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While Washington focuses on great power competition, Iran's proxies have seized power in Baghdad and are gutting the state.

President Biden's national security team sees a quiet Middle East as an end unto itself—including in Iraq. The White House believes that regional de-escalation is necessary to allow the United States to focus on its competition with China. But in Iraq, this approach promises to have long-term costs: the U.S. desire for calm is being exploited by Tehran's allies to destabilize its politics. Iraq may look calm, but looks can be deceiving. The country is actually entering a uniquely dangerous period: Iran's allies have achieved unprecedented control of Iraq's parliament, judiciary, and executive branch, and they are rapidly rigging the political system in their favor and looting the state of its resources. Washington's complacent attitude toward these events is only setting it up for costly involvement later...

[Read the full article on the Foreign Affairs website. \(https://www.foreignaffairs.com/iran/iraq-quietly-falling-apart\)](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/iran/iraq-quietly-falling-apart) ❖

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