

# Podcast: Iraqi Kurdistan ahead of the Independence Referendum

by [Michael Knights \(/experts/michael-knights\)](#)

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## ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[Michael Knights \(/experts/michael-knights\)](#)

Michael Knights is the Jill and Jay Bernstein Fellow of The Washington Institute, specializing in the military and security affairs of Iraq, Iran, and the Persian Gulf states. He is a co-founder of the Militia Spotlight platform, which offers in-depth analysis of developments related to the Iranian-backed militias in Iraq and Syria.

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Brief Analysis

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**The upcoming independence referendum in Iraq's Kurdistan region is already yielding positive results in the form of compromise and cooperation among parties and movements whose enmity has long gridlocked Iraqi Kurdish politics.**

Institute scholar Michael Knights says that the upcoming independence referendum in Iraq's Kurdistan region is already yielding positive results in the form of compromise and cooperation among parties and movements whose enmity has long gridlocked Iraqi Kurdish politics. While a pro-independence result is a near certainty for the September 25 vote, the shape of an eventual settlement between the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and Iraq's national government in Baghdad could take many forms, each with its own problems and benefits for U.S. interests in the region. Near East PolicyCast: Conversations on Middle East issues from the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. ❖

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