Virtual lecture series "Iraq 20 Years after the US Invasion: The Politics and memory of the transition from dictatorship and occupation"

The US-led invasion and occupation of Iraq in 2003 was a watershed event in recent history. It ended the reign of one of the most brutal anciens régimes in the Middle East. Together with Afghanistan it marked the beginning of American "forever wars", split Europe into an "old" and a "new" part, and shifted the regional power balance in favor of Iran. The impact on Iraq was profound. Outright dictatorship gave way to civil war and the construction of a hybrid regime that combined sectarianism and formally democratic institutions with rampant corruption and authoritarian forms of patronage. Yet the transition also opened new opportunities for Iraqi civil society to express its aspiration and grievances, including the politics of gender, minorities and memory. Economic sectors such as education, health care and natural resources underwent new developments and legal and governance structures were reformed. This virtual lecture series by internationally renowned experts gives an overview of developments since the invasion in 2003, discusses how they have shaped Iraqi society and gives an outlook on possible future pathways.

Time: 18h-19.15h CEST

1. Virtual lecture Tue, 4. Apr. 2023: War and the Military Security Complex in Iraq
- "The U.S. Army and Iraqi Security Forces: Legacy and Rebuilding"
  Kate Tietzen-Wisdom (U.S. Army Center of Military History in Washington D.C, USA)
- "Stand-Off Warfare since the 2003 Iraq War: Mercenaries, Drones, and their Proliferation"
  Ibrahim Al-Marashi (California State University San Marcos, USA)
- "Iraq: US Grand Strategy and the Unlearned Lessons of the Iraq War", James Russell (Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, USA)

  Moderator: Eckart Woertz (GIGA and University of Hamburg)

2. Virtual lecture Tue, 11. Apr. 2023: Diaspora and Identity Politics
- "A Saddam Cult in Jordan? How the 2003 Iraq war has re-shaped identity politics in the near abroad"
  André Bank (German Institute for Global and Area Studies, Germany)
- "The Ba'thist Struggle for the Iraqi Diaspora"
  Samuel Helfont (Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, USA)
- "Twenty years of the Iraqi History since the fall of Saddam Hussein through the lens of the iraq chamber of the Hamburg administrative court"
  Nils Lukacs (University of Hamburg, Germany)

  Moderator: Ibrahim Al-Marashi (California State University San Marcos, USA)

3. Virtual lecture Tue, 18. Apr. 2023: The Politics of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq
- "Institutionalising Islamism in Kurdistan Region of Iraq"
  Ibrahim Malazada (Soran University, KRI, Iraq)
- "Carrots and Sticks: The Kurdistan Regional Government's use of Minorities in the Drive for Statehood (2003-2017)"
  Gregory Kruczek (Penn State University, USA)
- "Food Security, the Public Distribution System and cooperation between Baghdad and Erbil"
  Eckart Woertz (GIGA and University of Hamburg)

Moderator: Dastan Jasim (GIGA and University of Erlangen)

4. Virtual lecture Tue, 25. Apr. 2023: Economy and Natural Resources
- "Legacies of Hydrological Change and Political Conflict in Iraq, 69 USA"
  Ariel Ahram and Farhad Mamshai (Virginia Tech School of Public and International Affairs, USA)
- "An Analysis to the Sustainable Development Policies and Natural Resources Governance in Iraq: 1990 –2020"
  Adnan Aljawareen (University of Basrah, Iraq)
- "Political Economy of Modernization in Iraq: Challenges & Consequences"
  Ebrahim Abbassi (Shiraz University, Shiraz, Iran)

  Moderator: Eckart Woertz, GIGA and University of Hamburg

5. Virtual lecture Tue, 2. May 2023: Institutions: Education, Health and the Legal System
- "We Don't Need No Education? The Challenges of the Higher Education Sector of the KRI"
  Silvia Nicola (Bundeswehr Center for Military History and Social Sciences, Free University Berlin, Germany)
- "Constitutional reform in Iraq focusing on legal and constitutional change"
  Mohammad Koperly (Al Nesoor Law Firm, Baghdad, Iraq)
- "Sectarianism and the Epidemic of Mental Illness in Iraq"
  Ruba Ali Al-Hassani (Lancaster University, UK)

  Moderator: Dalia Abid (American University of Iraq, Baghdad, Iraq)

6. Virtual lecture Tue, 9. May 2023: Art and Literature
- "Samir Naqqash, Jewish Iraqi author, seetled in Israel, and his possible reappropriation in Iraqi culture"
  Phoebe Carter (Harvard University, USA)
- "Homeland: Iraq Year Zero: Baghdad's Future, Past"
  Paul Chouchana (Harvard University, USA)
- "The 'First True Iraqi Citizen': The Pitfalls of the Nation in Ahmed Saadawi's Frankenstein in Baghdad (2013)"
  Nuha Askar (Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main, Germany)

  Moderator: Achim Rohde (Academy in exile/ University of Hamburg)

7. Virtual lecture Tue, 23. May 2023: Iraqi Politics
- "How do geo-historical factors affect political preference: the case of Baghdad constituency in Iraqi parliamentary election in 2021"
  Keiko Sakai (Chiba University, Japan)
- "The new Iraqi State and the ruling families"
  Sardar Aziz (former senior adviser in Kurdistan Parliament/Iraq) (co-author Bilal Wahab)
- "The Muhasasa System, Ethnosectarian Identities, and Popular Protests in Iraq"
  Jinan Al-Habbal (London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), UK)

  Moderator: Hamit Bozarslan (EHESS)

8. Virtual lecture Tue, 30. May 2023: Violence and Protests
- "State and Sufism in Iraq: The Sufi Insurgency of the Former Baʿth Regime"

David Jordan (Ruhr University Bochum, Germany)
- "Is Protest a Luxury? Evidence from Post-ISIS Iraq"
  Mujtaba Ali Isani (King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals, Saudi Arabia, and University of Mannheim, Germany)

  Moderator: Achim Rohde (Academy in exile/ University of Hamburg)

9. Virtual lecture Tue, 6. Jun. 2023: Gender Politics and Imaginaries in Iraq
- "Iraq Remembered - The Meaning of Home in the Narratives of Iraqi Women Refugees in Jordan and the USA"
  Isis Nusair (Denison University, USA)
- "Gender Policy and Its Relations with Woman Political Participation in Parliamentarian Action in Kurdistan Region"
  Zhiya Qader (University of Sulaimani, KRI, Iraq)
- "The Impact of War, Invasion and Nationalism on Iraqi Woman in Muhsin Al-Ramli's "I killed Because I loved her"
  Thamir R. S. Az-Zubaidy (Wasit University, Iraq)

  Moderator: Nadje Al-Ali (Brown University, USA)

10. Virtual lecture Tue, 13. Jun. 2023: The Politics of Memory I
- "Presentation of the Hoover archives and their challenges"
  Haidar Hadi (Stanford University, USA)
- "A Tale of Two De-Ba'thifications in Iraq: Evidence from Erbil and Baghdad"
  Ruiheng Li (Peking University, China)
- "Behind Closed Doors: Saddam's Chemical War Strategy"
  Asher Orkaby (Princeton University's Transregional Institute and a lecturer at Harvard University, USA)

  Moderator: André Bank (GIGA)

11. Virtual lecture Tue, 20. Jun. 2023: Politics of Memory II
- "Rewriting history between Baathist politics under Saddam era and Islamic parties after 2003"
  Amer Sultan (Al Salam University Company, Kuweit and Bangor University, UK)
- "Iraqi Martyrdom Foundation (mu'assassat al-shuhada'), a public institution founded in 2006 and what values it conveys and what dicourses it engender"
  Arran Walshe (New York University, USA)

  Moderator: Dina Khoury (George Washington University, USA)