

Kayhan Group of Newspapers

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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Iraq No Post-World War One Entity to Succumb to Foreign Plots

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

In 1917, in the closing years of the First World War, the ancient land of Mesopotamia literally fell from the frying pan into the fire, when the Ottoman occupiers fled, leaving it to the new breed of occupiers, the British, who now decided to create a new state called 'Iraq' by merging the three Vilayets of Basra, Baghdad and Mosul.

The overwhelming majority of the inhabitants of the Land of the Rivers Tigris and Euphrates were the Shi'a Arab Muslims long suppressed by the Ottomans, next came the discriminated ethnic Kurdish minority that was confined to the rugged mountains of the north, followed by the Sunni Arabs hardly 12 percent minority – favoured by the caliph and his courtiers in Istanbul as part of the policy of divide-and-rule policy.

If Britain was really the liberator and if justice was to be done to the people of the new land on the basis of representative rule, as per the emerging trend in the West, then the majority community which was culturally and academically more progressive than the other two because of its centres of learning in the holy cities of Najaf and Karbala, as well as its fraternal relations with neighbouring Iran, should have given charge of the new country, of course, with due respect for the rights of others.

This was the very anathema to imperialist Britain, which wanted to keep tight control over oil and other natural resources, and thus in 1920 it brutally crushed the popular uprising of the southern tribes led by the ulema, exiling Ayatollah Sheikh Kashef al-Gheta and poisoning Ayatollah Mirza Mohammad Taqi Shirazi.

The notorious British spy, Gertrude Lawrence Bell, who posed as a traveler and was entrusted with the affairs of Iraq, sums this up as follows in one of her letters:

"The Shi'a problem is probably the most formidable in this country. We were discussing it last night at an extremely interesting dinner party in my house... Abdul Majid said "What are you going to do if the chief mujtahid, whose voice is the voice of God, issues a fatwa that no Shi'a is to sit in the Legislative Assembly ... or when a law is being debated, suppose the mujtahid cuts in with a fatwa that it's against canon law and must be rejected?"

"If you're going to have anything like really representative institutions – always remember that the Turks hadn't; there wasn't a single Shi'a deputy – you would have a majority of Shi'as. I don't for a moment doubt that the final authority must be in the hands of the Sunnis, in spite of their numerical inferiority; otherwise you will have a mujtahid-run, theocratic state."

Gertrude Bell in these discussions highly recommended Faisal bin Hussein, (the son of Hussein, Sherif of Mecca), former commander of the Arab forces that helped the British during the war against the Ottomans, be installed as king in Baghdad.

Historians and political analysts point out that the present troubles in Iraq are because of the British, who after the overthrow of their imported kings in 1958 (Faisal II), made sure in complicity with the Americans that minority dictatorships would be in control of Iraq.

In 2004, with the US invasion and the end of the Ba'ath minority regime, the American bid to install a new strongman in Baghdad, completely failed, thanks to the awareness of the Iraqi people and the inspiration they derived from the leading mujtahid in Najaf, Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Sistani.

Laws were formulated and a system of government established, with the respect for the rights of all, to the chagrin of the US, which, along with Saudi Arabia, created the Takfiri terrorists and their bloodcurdling bid to take over the country – an intricate plot that was soundly defeated by the Ayatollah Sistani's call to the general public to take up arms in the form of the popular mobilization units (Hashd ash-Sha'bi) and the timely advisory help, together with the necessary weapons received from friendly and fraternal neighbour Iran.

As a result of this newfound unity, Iraq became the cynosure of all eyes around the world, especially the peaceful and orderly millions-strong rallies for the annual Arba'een pilgrimage – much to the horror of the Americans.

This is the reason the US, along with Britain, Saudi Arabia and Israel has stirred the recent riots in Iraq by greasing the palms of the hoodlums, traitors, remnants of the Ba'athists, and residue of the Takfiris, in a vain bid to bring down the government and the system, and replace it with some dictator.

Thanks, however, to the vigilance of the ulema, the tribesmen, the students, and the ordinary citizens, represented by the Hashd ash-Sha'bi, which on Tuesday, December 10 marked the second anniversary of the victory of the Iraqis over Daesh, the new plot will Insha Allah, fail.

No traitor can drive a wedge between Iran and Iraq, and no foreign meddler will be allowed to interfere in the affairs of Iraq, as was the message of the government when it summoned the ambassadors of Britain, France, Germany, and Canada, and soundly censured their meddling remarks.

Russia, Iran, Turkey Blast Seizure of Syrian Oilfields



Members of the delegations attend a session of the peace talks on Syria in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan December 11, 2019.

NUR-SULTAN (Dispatches) – Russia, Turkey and Iran are concerned about the increased presence of terrorist groups in Syria's Idlib province, the three countries said after talks in Kazakhstan, pledging to coordinate actions aimed at eliminating the militants.

Moscow, Ankara and Tehran "highlighted the necessity to establish calm on the ground", the trio said in a joint statement after the talks, also attended by representatives of the Damascus government and the Syrian armed opposition.

The three countries also said they rejected attempts to create "new realities on the ground, including illegitimate self-rule initiatives" and that they were opposed to the illegal seizure and transfer of Syrian oil revenues.

They further dismissed "separatist agendas that pose threat to the political unity and territorial integrity of

Syria as well as to the national security of the neighboring countries".

The United States and France support Kurdish militants in northern Syria in what is seen as a bid to carve out a separate territory inside the Arab country.

The U.S. military has also reinforced its position in Syria with additional assets, including mechanized forces, to prevent the Syrian government from retaking oilfields which are crucial to the war-torn country's reconstruction.

The U.S. government has said the oil proceeds from the fields are being used to fund Kurdish militants.

Commenting on the work of the Syrian Constitutional Committee, the three nations said it should be governed by a sense of "compromise and constructive engagement" without foreign interference and externally imposed timelines.

Idlib remains the only large area in the hands of militants after the Syrian military brought back almost all of Syrian soil under government control.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Wednesday Idlib has been taken over by Al-Qaeda-linked Jabhat al-Nusra terrorists, adding it has to be liberated eventually.

"The final result of the development of the situation should be complete liberation of this zone from terrorists, and restoration of legitimate government's control over this entire territory," he said during a press conference in Washington.

Terrorists, he said, occupied Idlib and attacked Syrian troops, civilian infrastructure and Russia's Hmeimim airbase. Lavrov said Russian and Syrian forces have responded to the attacks, but the status quo is unsustainable.

Iran Denounces 'Shortsighted' Arab Summit

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iran on Wednesday denounced "baseless allegations" leveled against Tehran at a summit of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in Riyadh.

The GCC released the statement on Tuesday at the end of its 40th summit, urging a united front against Iran, calling for global action its nuclear energy program, and making claims to three Iranian islands in the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

"The repetition of groundless allegations in that statement results from the political pressures from a few members of the Council, which have made every effort during the past couple of decades to prevent the promotion of multilateral cooperation," Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said.

"With their shortsightedness throughout these years, not only have they allowed for plundering the neighboring countries' wealth, but they have also paved the way for further outside interference in this sensitive region," he said.

Mousavi said some GCC members are willing to ruin opportunities for cooperation, offered by Iran in order to restore security and peace to the region. He cited

Iran's offer for a non-aggression pact, a regional dialogue forum, and ultimately its Hormuz peace initiative among them.

He said "a few countries following unwise policies in the region should explain to the regional public opinion what measures they have taken to reduce tensions other than creating and strengthening terrorist and Takfiri groups in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen, or allowing outsiders to the Persian Gulf".

"The countries whose irresponsible intervention in other countries has led to the massacre of innocent citizens, from women and children to the elderly, and resulted in the spread of insecurity and terrorism in the region, are attempting to evade the consequences," Mousavi added.

The spokesperson further underlined that the three Iranian islands of the Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa are an indispensable and eternal parts of the Iran, adding Tehran views any claims to islands as tantamount to meddling in its internal affairs and encroachment on its territorial boundaries.

"All activities by the Islamic Republic of Iran on the

(Continued on Page 7)

Press TV Launches Own Platform After Google Attack

TEHRAN (Press TV) – Press TV has launched the beta version of an indigenously-devised video-sharing platform after Google's repeated attacks on Iranian media outlets.

Urmedium boasts an interactive advertisement-free setting and a sizable reservoir of downloadable content. The platform has already listed channels belonging to the two networks as well as a whole host of other Iranian and international, including Russian, out-

lets.

On Tuesday, Google stopped providing services to the country's Press TV and Hispan TV, blocking access to their YouTube and Gmail accounts.

The two Iranian networks' channels were taken down without prior notice. It marked the fifth time Google takes on Press TV, and a second time it targets Hispan TV in such a way.

Google Support says it may not

provide any prior notice "in some urgent or extreme cases." However, it has yet to explain for what "urgent" case it has "disabled" Press TV's account.

Google has also deprived Press TV of its News service.

The Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting — which runs Press TV and Hispan TV as part of its World Service — has called such attacks clear examples of censorship.

The Holy Qur'an

Say: If your fathers and your sons and your brethren and your mates and your kinsfolk and property which you have acquired, and the slackness of trade which you fear and dwellings which you like, are dearer to you than Allah and His Apostle and striving in His way, then wait till Allah brings about His command: and Allah does not guide the transgressing people.
The Holy Qur'an (9:24)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	11:58
Evening (Maghreb)	17:12
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:34
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	07:04

President: Iran Will Overcome Sanctions

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iran will overcome U.S. sanctions by either bypassing them or through negotiations, and it will not cross its red lines in any talks with Washington, President Hassan Rouhani said on Wednesday.

Tensions have soared between Tehran and Washington since last year, when President Donald Trump pulled the United States out of Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with six powers and reimposed sanctions on Tehran.

The Islamic Republic has rejected negotiating a new deal with the Trump administration, saying talks are only possible if Washington returns to the nuclear pact and lifts sanctions.

"The government is determined to defeat (the enemy) by bypassing America's sanctions...or through various means including talks, but we will not cross our red lines," Rouhani said.

Iran has rowed back on its nuclear commitments four times under Articles 26 and 36 of the JCPOA, but stressed that its retaliatory measures will be reversible as soon as the European signatories — France, Britain and Germany — find practical ways to shield mutual trade from the US sanctions.

President Rouhani said last week that Iran has been left with no choice other than resistance against those who have brought it under sanctions.

"We have no choice other than resistance and steadfastness in the face of those who impose sanctions, but have not shut the door to negotiation either," Rouhani said during an address in Tehran on December 4.

"We believe that wrongful and oppressive sanctions should be lifted first, and then the issue of negotiation can be addressed," he added.

On Wednesday, Rouhani said U.S. plots against regional countries will fail through their resistance.

"Undoubtedly, the Iraqi, Syrian, Lebanese and Iranian nations can resist their (Americans') plots, and the Iranian nation has been and will be the forerunner in this regard," he said.