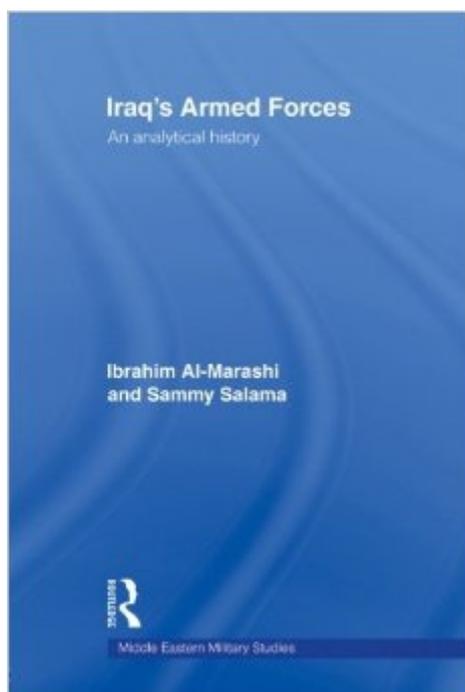


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Iraq's Armed Forces: An Analytical History (Middle Eastern Military Studies)



Synopsis

This book provides the first comprehensive study of the evolution of the Iraqi military from the British mandate era to post-Baathist Iraq. Ethnic and sectarian turmoil is endemic to Iraq, and its armed forces have been intertwined with its political affairs since their creation. This study illustrates how the relationship between the military and the political centre in Iraq has evolved, with the military bringing about three regime changes in Iraq's history before being brought under control by Saddam Hussein, up until the 2003 war. The instability that followed was partly due to the failure to create a new military that does not threaten the government, yet is still strong enough to deter rival factions from armed conflict. The reconstitution of the armed forces will be a prerequisite for an American withdrawal from Iraq, but this book argues that immense challenges lie ahead, despite the praise from the Bush administration for the progress of the new Iraqi army.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have researched the Iraqi army for some time for a government publication on a related subject. During that research I have relied on many books as sources, to include those written by Mohammad Gholi Majd, Peter Sluglett, Gerald de Gaury, David Fromkin, Reeva Spector Simon, and Majid Khadduri's. All are excellent, but with the possible exception of Reeva Spector Simon's, they (of necessity) discuss the Iraqi army in a peripheral manner. Al-Marashi and Salama have focused their work squarely on the subject of the Iraqi military and do not deviate from that focus during the entire book. The relationships between the army, king, baath party, and Saddam are

explained in crisp, clear, detail. Their account also includes little known facts about the Iraq-Iran war, to include the "de-politization" of the Army in the wake of the loss of the Al-Faw peninsula. All in all, an excellent account worth acquiring for personal or reference libraries. Highly recommended!

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