
Submitted by Shorsh Mustafa Resool to the University of Exeter for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Arab & Islamic Studies by research in January 2012

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(Signature) ……S. Resool……
Abstract
The thesis analyzes the Kurdish nationalism movement as a reaction to the homogenization process by successive Iraqi governments since the establishment of the current state of Iraq. The case study for the thesis is Kurdish reactive nationalism and the Ba’th party from 1963 - 2003. The Ba'th Party came to power in 1963 then again in 1968 through two co-de-ta until their fall in 2003. The Ba'th Party tried to homogenize the state of Iraq and impose a Sunni-Arab identity to Iraq through centralized education and administration system. The Sunni Arabs are a minority group within the boundary of Iraq but had been the dominant group since 1921 until 2003. The Kurds refused such identity and demanded for their national rights to be recognized. The Ba’th Party excluded the Kurds from holding senior or sensitive posts within education, administration and military posts. Having the control over the judicial system, the Ba’th Party labeled the Kurds as traitors, which legitimize their extermination. Subsequently, they were subjected to genocide under the hands of the Ba’th party. Despite all this, the Kurds continued in their struggle for their national rights. With every step by the Ba'th party to exterminate them the Kurds reacted by organizing themselves and adapted themselves to the new situation. They also seized every opportunity that had arisen to enhance their position. The Kurdish nationalism blossomed after the 1991 uprising following the second gulf war in March 1991. The Kurds managed to run a general election for Kurdistan Parliament; established the Kurdistan Regional Government; improved the education and administration system; improved schools, universities, art and economy. The fall of Saddam on 9th April 2003 was another golden opportunity that the Kurds seized pretty well. They contributed in writing Iraq’s constitution and managed to achieve most of their national demands within the federal state of Iraq. Hence, Kurdish nationalism has blossomed.
# Content

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page Number</th>
<th>Acknowledgments</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>Introduction</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>Theory and Methodology</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>The Origins of Kurdish Nationalism</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>The Kurds in Iraq</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1. Kurds’ Origin &amp; Status</td>
<td></td>
<td>1. Foundation of Iraq and the Kurds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. The Origins of Kurdish Nationalism</td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Foundation of Iraq and Kurdish Nationalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. Kurds Ruling Themselves</td>
<td></td>
<td>3. Emergence of Kurdish Nationalist parties and Groups in the 20th century</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1. Emirate of Baban</td>
<td></td>
<td>1. Kurdistan Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Emirate of Soran (1810-1836)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Hiwa Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. Emirate of Botan and Baderkhan Pasha’s Movement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>4. Revolts &amp; Independence Claims</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>1. Sheikh Ubaidullai Shamzini (Nehri) movement</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Sheikh Mahmud’s Kingdom</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Shorsh Party & Rezgari Party
4. Association for the Restoration of the Kurds
   (Komalai Jyanawai Kurd – JK) – 16 September 1942
5. Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) -16 August 1946
6. Republic of Mahabad
4. End of Monarchy
5. Kurdish Liberation Movement

5 Between Wataniyya & Qawmiyya in Iraq (1963-1968)
   1. The Ba’th Party – Ideology and Origin
   2. The Ba’th Party’s Seizure of Power on 8th February 1963
   3. Split within the KDP
   4. Ba’th Party’s Policy Against the Kurds
   5. Rounds of Negotiations

6 From Victory to Collapse (1968 – 1975)
   1. 1968’s Ba’th Party Coup D’état
   2. Emergence of Saddam Hussein
   3. Arabization Policy
   4. 11th March 1970 Agreement

7 Battleground Kurdistan (1975 - 1985)
   1. Collapse of a Dream (Algiers Accord) – 6 March 1975
   2. After the Fall
   3. Emergence of the PUK & Other Kurdish parties
   4. New Kurdish Movement
5. Kurdish Division 185
6. Northern Bureau of Ba’ath Party in Kirkuk (NB) 188
7. Deportation, Village Destruction & Complexes 189
8. Iran – Iraq War 194

8 Tragedy and Triumph (1985 – 1991)
1. Kurds Organizing their Home – Iraqi Kurdistan Front 201
2. Ali Hassan al_Majid 204
3. Prelude to Genocide 205
   1. Chemical attacks 205
   2. 1987’s Census 208
4. Anfal Campaign 210
   1. First Anfal - Jafati Valley (23 February – 19 March 1988) 212
   2. Second Anfal – Qaradagh Area (22 March – 2 April 1988) 216
   3. Third Anfal – Germian plane (7 – 20 April 1988) 220
   4. Fourth Anfal – Kirkuk & Koyeh Areas (3 - 7 May 1988) 224
   5. Fifth, Sixth & Seventh Anfal – Erbil Area (24 May – 26 August 1988) 228
   6. Eighth (Final) Anfal – Badinan Region (28 August – 3 September 1988) 233
5. International Response 236
6. Aftermath of Anfal & Invasion of Kuwait 238

1. Critical Moments 242
2. Kurdish Uprising in March 1991 – False Victory 245
3. Exodus 251
4. Safe Haven 254
5. Another Failed Diplomatic Attempt – 1991 Negotiations 257
6. End of Ba’th Rule 264
7. The Best Solution - Election of Kurdistan Parliament 267
8. Election Results - Catastrophe or Triumph 271
10. Bitter Experience - Internal Fighting 275
11. Fall of the Tyrant – 9th April 2003 284
10 Conclusion 286
Bibliography 300