Baghdad Observer Digital Archive

THE
BAGHDAD OBSERVER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: KHALIS AZMI
GREEK KING REVOLTS AGAINST MILITARY JUNTA
NEVER SANAA WILL FALL TO "ROYALISTS"
ZEAYEN VISITS FRENCH PETROLEUM INSTITUTE
COMMANDOS CLASH WITH THE ENEMY NEAR TEL AVIV
BLAST IN GAZA

Official English-language newspaper of the Iraqi government

Following the November coup of 1963, the pro-Nasserist Iraqi government consolidated its power by banning the Ba'ath Party, nationalizing major businesses, and shuttering newspapers—including popular English-language titles *The Iraq Times* (closed 1963) and *Baghdad News* (closed 1967). Shortly after, the *Baghdad Observer* was established as the official English-language newspaper of the Iraqi government.

In 1968, President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr rose to power and established Ba'athist Iraq. Instead of closing the *Baghdad Observer*, the new government continued publishing it—with a Ba'athist editorial stance. During this time, the *Baghdad Observer* covered important events in Middle East history, including the Iranian Revolution (1978-1979), the Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988), and the Gulf War (1990-1991). Perhaps most notably, the *Baghdad Observer* covered the presidency of Saddam Hussein (1979-2003). During this period, the *Baghdad Observer* helped maintain the cult of personality surrounding Hussein, while also functioning as a resource for English-speaking observers.

Under Hussein's control, the Iraqi government embraced a form of Ba'athism that de-emphasized the ideologies of pan-Arabism, leftism, and anti-imperialism, in favor of hyper nationalism and militarism. During this era, the Iraqi government was notorious for its human rights abuses towards Kurdish ethnic minorities, as well as sectarian repression of the Shia majority by the ruling Sunni minority.

Speculation that the Hussein's military had developed weapons of mass destruction led the United States to launch the Iraq War in 2003, at which point the *Baghdad Observer* ceased publication.

The Baghdad Observer Digital Archive is the only complete digital archive of the official English-language newspaper of Ba'athist Iraq and an important resource for scholars of history, politics, sociology, and military science. When paired with *The Iraq Times* and *Baghdad News* from our Middle Eastern and North African Newspapers collection, this archive completes the definitive English-language newspaper record of the history of Ba'athism in Iraq.

Key Stats

- **Archive:** 1967-1996
- **Language:** English
- **City:** Baghdad
- **Country:** Iraq
- **Format:** PDF, page-based
- **Producer:** East View Information Services
- **Platform:** East View Global Press Archive

About the Archive

The Baghdad Observer Digital Archive contains the most complete collection available for this title. The archive features full page-level digitization, complete original graphics, and searchable text, and is cross-searchable with other Global Press Archive collections.

The Baghdad Observer Digital Archive is a part of the East View Global Press Archive®, which is the result of a landmark initiative of Stanford Libraries and the Hoover Institution Library & Archives to digitally preserve and make more accessible thousands of original print newspaper publications collected by the Hoover Institution and now housed by Stanford Libraries.

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