

United Nations And Iraq: Defanging the Viper



When it comes to international diplomacy, few situations have tested the mettle of the United Nations (UN) like the relationship with Iraq. The long and tumultuous history between the two parties has been marked by conflicts, sanctions, and disarmament efforts.

The Rise of the Viper

Throughout the 20th century, Iraq emerged as a key player in the geopolitics of the Middle East. Under Saddam Hussein's rule, the nation became infamous for its aggressive foreign policy and pursuit of weapons of mass destruction.



United Nations and Iraq, The: Defanging the Viper

by Thomas Fleming (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 4598 KB

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 264 pages

Screen Reader: Supported



As tensions escalated, the international community looked to the UN for guidance and support in dealing with Iraq. A series of resolutions were passed, imposing sanctions and demanding disarmament.

The Failed Inspections

The UN's attempts to disarm Iraq through inspections faced numerous challenges. Saddam Hussein's regime obstructed and misled inspectors, creating a cat-and-mouse game that prolonged the crisis.

The United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), established in 1999, was tasked with uncovering Iraq's weapons program. However, the process was met with resistance, leaving the UN frustrated and the international community on edge.

The Coalition of the Willing

In 2003, the United States, along with a group of willing nations, took matters into their own hands. Citing the lack of progress in disarmament and the perceived threat posed by Saddam Hussein, they launched a military intervention in Iraq.

This unilateral approach strained the relationship between the United Nations and the United States as well as other nations. The war turned into a protracted conflict, resulting in a power vacuum that gave rise to sectarian violence and extremist groups.

Rebuilding and Reconciliation

In the aftermath of the war and the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime, Iraq faced significant challenges in terms of security, governance, and nation-building. Here, the United Nations played a vital role in supporting Iraq's transition to a stable and democratic nation.

The UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) has been actively involved in helping Iraqis establish a representative government, rebuild infrastructure, and promote human rights. Despite the difficulties and setbacks, progress has been made.

A New Chapter

With the defeat of ISIS and the ongoing efforts towards stabilization, the relationship between the United Nations and Iraq has entered a new chapter. The UN continues to provide assistance in areas such as humanitarian aid, reconciliation, and the reintegration of displaced persons.

The presence of UN peacekeeping missions has helped address security concerns and promote stability in the country. Moreover, the United Nations

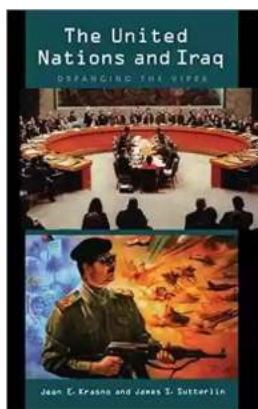
Development Program (UNDP) has been instrumental in supporting Iraq's economic recovery and social development.

The Road Ahead

The journey towards fully defanging the viper that plagued Iraq for decades is far from over. Iraq still faces challenges such as political instability, corruption, and the need for sustainable economic growth.

However, with the steadfast commitment of the United Nations and the international community, progress can be made. Through concerted efforts, Iraq can overcome its past and build a future of peace, prosperity, and unity.

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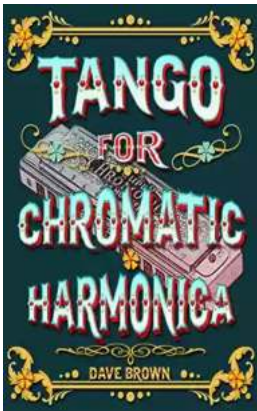
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Following the Gulf War from 1991 to 1998, the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) was created to unveil and eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction through inspections. This study describes how UNSCOM was designed to maintain its independence and authority, detailing the dramatic events that occurred as UNSCOM attempted to deal with an intransigent Iraq.

Krasno and Sutterlin outline the special intelligence skills that UNSCOM developed over the years in response to Iraqi tactics. They also provide an accounting of UNSCOM achievements and analyze remaining concerns.

Along with documentary research, much of the information in this book was obtained through a series of interviews with key players, including the Executive Directors, several UNSCOM inspectors, and a number of ambassadors to the United Nations who were directly involved. Concerns about Iraq's remaining weapons capabilities, particularly its biological and chemical weapons, have become increasingly relevant since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and the ensuing anthrax threat. This study provides insight about the disarming of Iraq, as well what lessons can be learned from the UNSCOM experiment.



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