

U.S. and Iraqi Relations: U.S. Technical Aid, 1950-1958

Unique documentation on American efforts to support nation-building in the Cold War era

- Date Range: 1950-1958
- Content: 52,834 pages
- Source Library: U.S. National Archives, College Park, Md.

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In the 1950s, the technical cooperation program in Iraq (U.S. Operations Mission) was frequently cited as an example of the ideal Point Four program. The overthrow of Iraq's monarchy in 1958 led to questions concerning the "failure" of American technical assistance.

U.S. and Iraqi Relations gives researchers a closer examination of U.S. Operations Mission (USOM) activities and highlights the severe obstacles faced by the mission and the success that was achieved.

Iraqi aid and its outcome

The USOM provided three kinds of aid:

- American technicians in-country
- Supplies and equipment
- Third Country training and educational exchange programs

How effective was the USOM in Iraq? Without purporting to answer this question, this collection provides the documentation necessary for scholars to make an assessment of the program's effectiveness. In addition, *U.S. and Iraqi Relations: U.S. Technical Aid, 1950-1958* offers researchers examples of how effective the current U.S. program may be in present-day Iraq.

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With 75% of the Iraqi population deriving their livelihood from the soil, agriculture constituted the most important area of USOM activity. But much was achieved in other areas of Iraqi society. The aim of the Point Four program was to promote the combined growth of economic and social improvement and political freedom.

U.S. and Iraqi Relations: U.S. Technical Aid, 1950-1958 offers rare primary-source documents chronicling U.S. efforts and outcomes in such areas as:

Agriculture

- Agricultural technicians were supplied to various branches of the government
- Establishment of a land-grant college system
- Development of country-wide extension service

Public health

- USOM emphasized preventive medicine, since in Iraq preventive medicine was not practiced as much as curative medicine

Education

- Emphasized technical training, a need for a country where illiteracy was high
- Special technical schools were established, and greater emphasis was placed on technical work in the public schools

Public administration

- American bureaucratic ideals were utilized
- Public safety training program was also established

Community development

- Established a nationwide system of multi-purpose village-level workers who were to improve the average villager's life

Transportation

- Engineers developed a highway system and supported its maintenance

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