



# A HISTORY OF IRAQ

CHARLES TRIPP



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*Third Edition*

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**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press  
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org  
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521702478

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First edition published 2000  
Second edition 2002  
Third edition 2007

Printed in the United States of America

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

ISBN- 978-0-521-87823-4 hardback  
ISBN- 978-0-521-70247-8 paperback

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MRECIC - ISEN - BIBLIOTECA
INVENTARIO: 92973
UBICACION: L 9973
CDU: 94(367)
FECHA: 25-4-11
PROCEDENCIA: COMPRA MRECIC 2011
PRECIO: \$ 50 (US\$ 12, <sup>21</sup> )

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## A History of Iraq THIRD EDITION

To understand Iraq, Charles Tripp's history is the book to read. Since its first appearance in 2000, it has become a classic in the field of Middle East studies, read and admired by students, soldiers, policymakers and journalists. The book is now updated to include the recent American invasion, the fall and capture of Saddam Husain and the subsequent descent into civil strife. What is clear is that much that has happened since 2003 was foreshadowed in the account found in this book. Tripp's thesis is that the history of Iraq throughout the twentieth century has made it what it is today, but also provides alternative futures. Unless this is properly understood, many of the themes explored in this book – patron–client relations, organised violence, sectarian, ethnic and tribal difference – will continue to exert a hold over the future of Iraq as they did over its past.

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CHARLES TRIPP is Professor of Politics in the Middle East at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. His publications include *Islam and the Moral Economy: The Challenge of Capitalism* (2006), *Iran–Saudi Arabia Relations and Regional Order* (with S. Chubin, 1996) and *Iran and Iraq at War* (1988).

COVER ILLUSTRATION: Iraqi and religious flags fly over graves in Najaf, November 2006, following the deaths of over 200 people in bomb attacks in Sadr City in Baghdad. (Photo by Wathiq Khuzaie / Getty Images.)

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www.cambridge.org

ISBN 978-0-521-70247-8



9 780521 702478