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IRAQ SEMINAR, 19 NOVEMBER

Can Iraq only be ruled by a strong authoritarian regime? Are other models possible? Why have they not worked in the past? Is regional devolution a starter?

- Can the different communities work together? What are the aspirations of the Shia and the Kurds? What relations do the Iraqi Shia have with Iran?
- What role does Islam play in Iraqi political life? How strong is Iraqi secularism? Would it survive the fall of the Ba'ath?
- What links does Iraq have to terrorism these days?
- Post-Saddam, how quickly would the Iraqi economy revive? Who would control the oil etc?
- What is the future of Iraqi relations with Iran? Can they cooperate or are they condemned to remain rivals for power at the north of the Gulf?
- Is there a prospect that Iraq can cooperate with the other Gulf Arab states or will Baghdad, as the historical centre of power and most populous Arab state in the region, always try to dominate? What are the possible models for security and stability in the Gulf region in the future? Can Iraq ever work with the GCC?
- Would change in Iraq destabilise other states like Syria (further undermining the credibility of the Ba'ath there) or Jordan? Is there really a prospect that change in Iraq could unlock movement on the MEPP?

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