Chapter-6

SUMMARY

Iraq is a nation state created in the twentieth century as a part of a new political map of West Asia drawn up by British and France. It is located in the core of West Asia and it is only West Asian country which is all by landlocked. Recent history of Iraq has been dominated by conflicts, first was the prolonged Iran-Iraq War from 1980 to 1988 and then seizure of Kuwait and subsequent Gulf War 1991 and the finally Second Gulf War 2003 which changed the geopolitics of country both internally and externally. It is one of very few countries to have emerged within span of less than a decade as a major militarized state. It was during war with Iran a significant arms producer surpassed in the Arab World only by Egypt. Throughout the war with Iran it was supported by the U.S.A and the West and also by the Arab oil states. It was relatively powerful and develop state but decimated by almost two decades of war and sanctions. It is an ancient civilization culture in the long history. Located between two rivers – Euphrates and Tigris has often been referred to as the cradle of civilization. The modern Iraq, was a part of Ottoman Empire from the 16th century until first World War. After the war in 1917 it was captured by British and Indian troops from the Ottoman Empire and present the Iraq correspond roughly to the former Turkish Ottoman provinces Basra, Baghdad and Mosul. The Euphrates and Tigris are the lifelines of Iraq without them Iraq could be nothing but stony desert.

Iraq’s relation with Kuwait has never been cordial and unsettled border issues, an old Iraqi historical claim to Kuwait, was major factor in Iraq and Kuwait relation well before the war. The problem dated back to the initial settlement of West Asian borders imperial power after World War first. In 1923, the Iraq–Kuwait border was drawn up by
Britain, giving Kuwait a coast line of 310 miles and allowing much larger Iraq the near 28 miles. This demarcation of borders left Iraq virtually landlocked. The British government assigned to Kuwait strategic islands in the Gulf – Bubiyan and Warbah that was considered by Iraq to be parts of its territory. The successive Iraqi governments constantly challenged this demarcation of the border. It appears that the British government had unjustifiably detached Warbah and Bubiyan islands from Iraq. Different Iraqi governments made an even historical claim to the effect that Kuwait had been a part of the vilayet of Basra in Iraq under the Ottoman Empire. The relation became more tense when Kuwait got independence in 1961, the Iraqi government declared Kuwait as an inseparable part of Iraq and mobilize troops. The intervention of the British government and other Arab countries – Egypt and Saudi Arabia - ended the crisis time being but the border issue remained unresolved.

The emergence of Baath party government in Iraq opened a new chapter in Iraq history. Iraq ties with Kuwait deteriorated and former revived its claim over Kuwait and demanded to cede Warbah and Bubiyan islands. After signing friendship treaty with Soviet Union in 1972 Iraqi government nationalized all foreign oil companies. This step of Iraq alarm the U.S and U.K internationally and Kuwait and Iran regionally. Meanwhile, Iraq tried to expand its regional influence in the Gulf region. During seventies some events took place in West Asia which provided Iraq to establish its influence in the region. The death of Nasser and joining Egypt to Western fold and signing of Camp David Accord in 1978, declined Egyptian influence in West Asia. Iraq seized these opportunities and vigorously opposed Camp David and strongly supported Palestinian cause. As a result it became a dominant leader in the Arab World. Further the overthrow of Shah of Iran by Islamic revolution in 1979 further pushed Saddam Hussein to establish closer relation
with conservative Gulf States. Relationship between Iraq and Iran deteriorated when Iran’s determination to overthrow Saddam Hussein became clear. Saddam Hussein decided to contain Iran and decided to a pre-emptive strike. The Iran-Iraq war continued for eight years. During the war Iraq obtained support of virtually the entire international community including U.S.A, Western Europe and the Gulf States. The international support provided Iraq arms, finance and military intelligence. The eight years war caused economic pressure on the Iraqi government and generated distortions on Iraqi economy. Consequently the financial crisis greatly increased regimes political insecurity. After war Iraq emerged a crippled nation and economic issues such as oil pricing and repayment of debt (80 billion dollar) were at fore front of Iraq’s relations with other countries. Reconstruction cost together with foreign debt were major economic problems for the Iraqi government. The oil industry which accounts for some 90% of Iraq’s income was completely ruined. Huge amounts were required for reconstruction of war ruined economy.

After Iran-Iraq war crisis started to deepen when Kuwait pressed for repayment of the 12 billion dollars of the Iraqi war debts. In response Iraq began to criticize Kuwait and the UAE about over production of oil violation of OPEC assigned quota. Iraq insisted upon the strict adherence to the OPEC assigned production quota. Iraq also accused Kuwait of stealing oil from the Rumaila oil field on the border between the two states. Saddam Hussein in fact wanted to raise oil prices without any change in total production of OPEC. To ease economic burden President Saddam Hussein wanted that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait should write-off their war times loan. The conflicting posture adopted by the parties involved created tension. Saddam Hussein urgently needed an immediate infusion of additional funds for domestic economic problems. These pressures were significantly intensify in post war Iraq. The reluctance of Gulf states to extend further credits to Iraq’s increased the anxiety of the
Iraqi governments. Kuwait and the UAE completely ignored the demands of Saddam Hussein. Kuwait and the UAE were not ready to reduce oil production. The Iraqi government considered the continued violation of oil quotas by these Gulf states a kind of war against Iraq. In order to defuse tension Saudi Arabia brought both the parties to the negotiations table. In this meeting both Iraq and Kuwait adopted defiant stand which led to the collapse of negotiations. The meeting ended amidst a bitter exchange of accusations. The next day, on 2nd August 1990, Iraqi forces enter Kuwait and on 8th August declared its annexation.

The international response to Iraq’s invasion was swift. It provoked almost unanimous world condemnation through the medium of the United Nations. Iraq’s assets were frozen worldwide. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) passed resolution 660, calling for an immediate Iraqi withdrawal and also imposed sanction against Iraq. Unprecedented cohesion was shown by the countries worldwide. A joint multinational military force designed to confront Iraq in Kuwait was prepared and ready to liberate Kuwait. The world in general and the Arab countries particular showed an extra-ordinary solidarity against Iraq. The UNSC on 29th November passed resolution 678 which authorized use of military force against Iraq after 15th January 1991. The U.S led allies hoped that sanction would soon force Iraq to yield and war would not be necessary. It prepared for the war to put pressure on Saddam Hussein. Iraq, however, was very careful not to provide any justification for the beginning of war to the U.S. The Iraqi ships were order not to resist American searches. Soon after the expiry of United Nations date line of 15th January 1991 the U.S multinational force launched ‘operation desert storm’ and war started to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation on 17th January 1991. The U.S established a broad based international coalition to confront Iraq military and diplomatically to defend the international principle of non-aggression. The war continued for 45 days
and finally on March 3rd a ceasefire was reached between U.S led coalition forces and Iraq. Although the multinational forces won a decisive victory, the coalition failed to achieve its real objective of removing Saddam Hussein regime from power. By mid 1990 Baath party was firmly in control in the central Iraq. However, U.S did not try to remove Saddam Hussein from power and allowed him to suppress Kurdish and Shia revolts.

After the war Iraq was condemn on various counts like use of chemical weapons against its Kurdish population and violation of human rights. It was also accused of developing nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. It was also accused of concealing its weapon of mass destruction in contravention of ceasefire resolution no. 687, and was repeatedly threaten with renewed aerial bombardment if full disclosers were not made. The economic sanctions were maintain to cripple economy of Iraq and to reduce Iraq to a backward and client state. The resolution 687 was meant to imposed political, economic and military penalties on Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait. The purpose of resolution was to limit Iraq’s ability to threaten the region through economic measures. It may not be wrong to say that the UNSC resolution 687 was imposed on Iraq with the aim of forcing it comply with all previous resolutions that had been passed by UNSC in connection with the Iraq- Kuwait crisis. After imposing a blanket ban on all import and export, the Security Council decided to allow only the import of supplies intended strictly for medical purposes and in humanitarian circumstances food stuffs. It was left to the discretion of the sanction committee, created under resolution 661 to determine what constituted humanitarian circumstances. Moreover, on 15th August 1991 the UNSC enacted resolution 706 which allowed Iraq to sell oil in order to purchase humanitarian items.
The main cause of continued hostility between U.S and Iraq was disagreement over the extent and need for continued United Nations inspections. The United States and United Kingdom claimed that Iraq was not following the terms of agreements and worked continuing to developed lethal weapons. Iraq denied this and claimed that the U.S was attempting to subvert their national sovereignty. In addition rebellious Shiites in south and Kurds in the north provided a pretext for U.S. and its allies to enforce no-fly zones over northern and southern Iraq, restricting Iraq military movements within its own border. By 1993 the lack of progress in any direction led to the Clinton administration to espouse the notion of dual containment- Iraq and Iran-defined henceforth rogue state. The primary aim of dual containment was to protect U.S’s friends in the region and keep the uninterrupted flow of oil to its allies. The United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) established to verify Iraq’s weapon development programmes succeeded in locating and destroying the majority of Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction. The UNSCOM despite political obstacle achieved a great deal between 1993 and 1996. The U.S and U.K kept on unilaterally bombing Iraq as punitive measures against alleged Iraqi non-cooperation with UNSCOM inspectors. Consequently the Iraqi government evicted the UNSCOM inspectors for charges of spying for American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). As a result of the end of Iraqi cooperation with the UNSCOM, the U.S and Britain heavily bombed alleged weapons sites throughout southern and central Iraq, known as 'operation desert fox'. In retaliation Saddam Hussein declared that Iraq would no longer recognised the validity of the no-fly zones and would actively contest the allies for control of all Iraqi air-space. This resulted continued clashes in the no-fly zones and periodic attack on Iraqi anti-aircraft emplacements by U.S and Britain. Dispute over weapon inspection programmes emerged among the permanent members of Security Council both U.S and U.K sought to expand the harsh sanctions deployed against
Iraq, where as Russia, France and China wanted a quick resolution to the impasse and preferred gradual lifting of sanctions proportionately to Iraq’s compliances. A year after operation desert fox, the UNSC resolution 1284 created a new arms monitoring body called United Nations Monitoring, Verification, and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) headed by Hans Blix. Following September 11, 2001 attacked on World Trade Centre the United States began making it successively more clear that it intended to remove the regime of Saddam Hussein.

However, two distinct group emerged within the Bush administration each advocating a different approach to the problem posed by Iraq. The first group led by the Deputy Secretary of Defence Pol Wolfowitz and National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice favoured the use of force to remove Saddam Hussein. They claimed that Iraq’s refusal to allow United Nations weapon inspectors for three years had given enough time to Iraq for resumptions of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons developments programmes that would ultimately used against Western targets. The Second group led by U.S Secretary of State Colin Powell insisted that the use of force would carry to many risk. They agreed military campaign would nearly serve to create anti-U.S feeling in the Arab World and would probably alienate the U.S allies in the region. They recommended a diplomatic approach to this problem. They also suggested that pressure be applied on Iraq to allow the return of United Nations weapons inspectors as the best guarantee of identifying and eliminating Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). Iraq continue to oppose any return of United Nations weapon inspectors and denied that it possessed WMD. After the successful campaign against Taliban regime in Afghanistan, demands within the U.S political establishment increased for a similar campaign in Iraq. In his state’s of his union address in January 2002, President Bush maintained that the war on terror alone was insufficient to satisfy the security needs of the U.S citizens. He
identified Iran, Iraq and Republic of North Korea as constituting an “axis of evil” who would threaten to the peace of the world. He accused Iraq specifically for continuing flaunts its hostility towards America support terror. Towards the end of 2002 it became increasingly clear that the U.S intended to launch a renewed invasion of Iraq. The thread of possible U.S military action against Iraq created grave concerned in Europe, Russia and the Arab World. The United Nations Secretary General was of the view that military action against Iraq would only exacerbate tensions in the region. President Putin of Russia reiterated his countries opposition to all military action against Iraq. The Arab leaders also reiterated that opposition to a U.S military campaign in Iraq. In the United Kingdom some 120 parliamentary members of Tony Blair own parties express their opposition to military action against Iraq.

The Bush administration and the British Prime Minister Tony Blair were determined to remove Saddam Hussein. Blair had several strategic meeting with Bush on Iraq after Bush became President. On 24th September British government issued a Dossier that dramatized the threat of weapons of Mass destruction posed by Iraq. The Dossier claims that Iraq earned estimated 3 billion dollar revenue illegally in 2001, used for developing weapons capabilities and other aggressive activities. After a gap of nearly four years negotiations for the renewal of weapons inspections began in March 2002 between United Nations Security General Kofi Annan, United Nations Monitoring, Verification, and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) Chairman Hans Blix and Iraqi officers. President Bush on September 12th, 2002 delivered a speech to the United Nations general assembly calling on the United Nations to enforce its resolution for disarm Iraq and kept the pressure on United Nations Security Council to approve a new resolution calling for Iraq to give weapons inspectors unfettered access and authorizing the use of force if Iraq does not comply.
Finally on November 2002, United Nations Security Council unanimously passed resolution 1441. The resolution demanded first that Iraq must declare of all details of its programmes and second, provide immediate and unconditional access to United Nations Monitoring, Verification, and Inspection Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). It added that serious consequence would follow if Iraq continued to violate its disarmaments obligations. The inspections took place in an environment that was charged politically and militarily. Although the prospect of war looming large with high military built up in the region, Iraq displayed enhanced level of restrain. For almost three months UNMOVIC and IAEA were allowed unfettered access to Iraqi military industrial sites. Though Iraq was given largely a client cheat for nuclear matter by the IAEA, doubt persisted over Iraq’s chemical and biological capabilities and its lack of cooperation with the inspections process. The U.S.A, U.K and Spain insisted for a new resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq. It stated that, Iraq would face serious consequences as a result of its continuing violation of its obligations. The United Nations Security Council was divided in its reaction to the draft resolution. France, Russia and China question the automaticity of war with Iraq without giving the inspectors process due time. They also questioned the need to have the second resolution. Anti–war demonstrations also served as reminder to U.S and U.K that war against Iraq was not justify unless authorized by the United Nations. President Bush mentioned that U.S would go to war against Iraq even if United Nations did not give covering sanction. In his view resolution 1441 already provided needed international legitimacy. In his state of the union address 28th January 2003, Bush accused Saddam Hussein of seeking significant quantity of uranium from Africa for his nuclear weapons programmes. Finally after the failure of efforts made by United Kingdom , United States, Spain and Portuguese heads of the governments met in Azores on March 16th 2003, to discuss the issue. On
17th March 2003, Bush issued a final ultimatum to Saddam Hussein and his two sons to leave Iraq within 48 hours. The avenue to war was open without the United Nations resolution. On March 19th, 2003 the United States and its coalition of willing forces launched operation Iraqi freedom.
CONCLUSION

West Asia has been and continues to be stirred hornet’s nest of crisis. It is infested with chronic issues like Arab- Israel conflict, Iran-Iraq crisis, Iraq-Kuwait dispute, Kurds problem, Shia-Sunni divide and the issues of terrorism. The need for influencing the regions politics primarily arises from the seduction of its rich oil resources. In the coming years oil will continue to be the front line though fast depleting source of energy. There are more than one trillion barrels of proven oil reserves globally and West Asia accounts for two third of these reserves. That makes oil in the region a premium resource for contention. Currently the U.S.A consumes 2.5% of the world oil produce. It is not surprising that oil forms an important determinant in the U.S security policy matrix. Iraq produces 10% of the total world oil output which is cheap and of high quality. In the post 1990 phase U.S oil companies were kept out of the contracting process by Iraq. After the regime change USA emphasized for renegotiation of the existing contracts. During Iraq-Kuwait crisis Saudi Arabia had provided logistic support to U.S and its allies. But relationship between the USA and Saudi Arabia became increasingly uncomfortable after the events of 11 September. This has made it imperative for USA to focus on other sources of oil in the region and Iraqi oil is an attractive preposition.

The Iraq crisis - the Gulf War 1991 and the Iraq War 2003- in fact shattered all of the Arab solidarity. Saddam Hussein after the occupation of Kuwait used Arabism to justify his invasion of another Arab State while anti-Iraqi - regimes manipulated the Arab league to engineer Western intervention against, an abort, an Arab solution to the crisis. The formation of an anti-Iraq coalition was the result of the Arab states failure of their collective institutions and collapse of Pan Arab solidarity. The Arab league was paralysed with no agreement on holding an Arab submit between 1990 and 1996. This was the result of
the Arab States policies being driven by realpolitik and Western dependency. The entire Arab institution designed to reconcile identity and sovereignty were much weaken by the Gulf crisis. It created void in the Arab security system that enabled the U.S to penetrate the West Asia to levels at par with the pre-Nasser age.

It seems that Bush administration was so much obsessed by idea of regime change in Iraq that it took a unilateral action of imposing war against strong public opinion within U.S and elsewhere. We did not see any threat from Saddam Hussein using of weapons of mass destruction against U.S troops. In fact no weapons of mass destruction have been found after the war. Some of the supporters of the war stated that U.S was not just interested in oil from Iraq, it was concerned to maintain political domination over all the oil producing countries of the region. The U.S case against Iraq was based mainly on the necessity of pre-emption as a step to self defence, this is the major source of worry to nations that do not wish to fall in line with U.S hyper power policies. The U.S government has, especially since 11 September events, stressed the write-off pre-emption in certain circumstances, especially against terrorist and rogue states threatening to acquire the weapons of mass destruction. More importantly Secretary of state Colin Powell while addressing the Senate Foreign Relations committee admitted that the success in the Iraq war had fundamentally pre-shaped that region in a powerful positive way that would enhance U.S interest. He further made clear that the presence of U.S troops in Iraq would serve notice to Iran and Saudi Arabia that the U.S would reasserts it presence as dominant military power in the region. From the above statement it may be noted that the U.S attack on Iraq was not against the use of weapons for mass destruction or removing Saddam from power but it was more to do with asserting U.S global hegemony in the region.
The U.S’s energy consumption rate points to fact that the U.S will continue to depend on West Asian oil as demand of oil is increasing fast. A close examination of the U.S energy policy further reveals a steady rise in oil consumption. The U.S contains 2.5% of the world’s proven oil reserves and its domestic production is declining. In these circumstances an incremental proportion of the nations oil demand is being met with imported oil. Hence for the foreseeable future the countries dependent on imported oil will further increased. The U.S department of energy and the energy information administration project that total U.S gross petroleum imports will rise from 12.2 million barrels per day in 2005, about 58% of total U.S oil demand to 20.2 million barrels per day, approximately 68% of the total demand, by 2025. Most of these imported oil will come from West Asian oil producers and other OPEC producers. The West Asian share of total U.S gross petroleum imports 20.4% in 2003, is projected to increase to almost 30 % in 2025, and the OPEC share 42.1% in 2003, is projected to rise to above 60% in the same times span. These projections clearly highlights the facts that the U.S will grow more dependent on imported oil and most of these oil will come from OPEC producers particularly from those in West Asian regions. The former U.S President George W. Bush too admitted in his state of union speech on 31st January 2006 about growing dependence on imported oil and called for a drastic change in the Nations energy policy. “Keeping American competitive requires affordable energy”, he stated “and here we have a problem. America is addicted to oil”. The President suggested “replace more than 75% of our oil imports from the Middle East by 2025”. These assertions show the growing share of imported oil in U.S energy consumption and also the anxiety of U.S administration. The U.S does not have enough oil to meet its growing demand. Further more nationals oil production falling due to the maturity of fields. Domestic measures such as greater energy efficiency, deep water exploration and the developments of oil deposits in the Arctic, national
wildlife refuge might temporarily slow down Washington dependence on foreign supplies but the direction is inevitable - increased dependence on foreign supplies. The Gulf region is a centre of gravity in the global oil market. The region holds two-thirds of world’s proven oil reserves and a substantial share of world oil production. The costs of Production are quite cheap in the world and oil fields are well developed and well connected to export terminals. The region has well developed oil producing infrastructure and access to world market. Consequently the Gulf region dominates world oil exports and this domination will continue for decades to come.

The Iraq crisis represents an important water-shed in international politics. The international community involve in Iraq through the United Nations since 1991. The crisis has threatened the credibility of United Nations, driven wedge in the trans-Atlantic alliance and brought into play the U.S doctrine of pre-emptive strike. Iraq crisis also did expose the inability of the international community to resolve the problem, eventually succumbing to unilateral action by U.S and its allies. The Iraq crisis and the U.S led war have exposed the UN system and more especially the peace and security enforcement provisions under chapter VI and VII of the charter to a critical scrutiny. To an extent U.S unilateralism in Iraq and the subsequent polarization of the UN Security Council have challenge the role of the UN. Democratization and meaningful reforms in the UN would strengthen its role in establishing a democratic world order. This will ensure future coherence of international community while dealing with contentious issues.

Some experts believe that other issue besides global hegemony for regime were U.S interest in terms of oil, petro-dollars and the OPEC euro question. While views expressed repeatedly that the war has nothing to do with oil, one can not discount the importance of the oil. It was believed that Iraq being the 3rd largest reserves may increase its oil
production and demolish the markets pressure on oil importing countries. The increase in Iraq oil production will weaken the power of OPEC to influence the oil markets by decisions to restrict output. Besides, the Iraq oil production to expand to near its capacity, the quotas establish by OPEC would cease to be honoured in the world oil markets. Views from this angle perhaps the Bush administration intended to topple in a pre-emptive attempt to initiate massive Iraqi oil production far in access of OPEC quotas, to reduce global oil crisis and there by dismantle OPEC price controls. The end goal of new conservative was perhaps to use the war on terror as the premise to finally dissolve OPEC’s decision making process, thus ultimately preventing the Cartel’s inevitable switch to pricing oil in euro’s.

Iraq also has great natural gas potential. The EIA estimates Iraq’s proven natural gas potential at 110 trillion cubic feet (2% of the World’s proven natural gas reserves) even though almost no exploration has been undertaken in Iraq in this field. The American military victory has significantly increase the status of U.S in the global oil market. It removed the so called Iraqi threat to the Gulf oil producers, the world’s main energy source and provided U.S to convert the victory into economic and political power. Iraq was the main target of Bush administration even before September 11events. The incident of World Trade Centre provided president Bush an opportunity to remove Saddam Hussein and intervene military in Iraq. However, before action could be taken against Iraq, the war in Afghanistan had to be won and situation stabilize. Afghanistan then could be presented to the American as a success story that could be replicated elsewhere. However, there was a big gap between the American perception of the success in Afghanistan and ground reality. Without pursuing the war against international terrorism to its logical conclusion the Bush administration decided to take the war to West Asia. The decision to remove Saddam
Hussein and re-construct first Iraq and then West Asia taken long before the objective was made public. There was in fact, no eminent threat to security of United States. A case had to be built. President Bush while addressing the Corps of Cadets at the defence college on June 1st 2002 argued for a “pre-emptive strike” strategy than for deterrence. A few days later the President again reiterated his doctrine of pre-emptive action in his speech before United Nations. The U.S Stated three reasons for removing Saddam Hussein- First, he developed weapons of mass destruction and had failed to comply with the condition of ceasefire to which it had agreed in 1991. Second, his regime provided shelter to Ansar-al-Islam, a terrorist in northern Iraq. Saddam Hussein was a threat to the peace and security of the region, the United States and the World. Third, he was a brutal tyrant who killed thousands of his opponents and use chemical weapons against his own people. The Iraqi people living in fear must be liberated from his tyranny. But the real objective was not made public by the United States. The objective was that a friendly government in Iraq would have given the United States control over the third largest deposit of oil in the world and even more importantly put it in a position to command the entire West Asia from Iraq. To achieve this goal the U.S had made several attempts to eliminate Saddam Hussein and uprising. It was generally believed soon after the liberation of Kuwait that in view of the massive destruction inflicted on Iraq, Saddam Hussein would be overthrown by his own people particularly from within the army. This optimism was misplaced because he quickly regained control through Baath Party which was highly organised. He began to tighten his grip over Iraq despite United Nations sanction. He had survived until 2003 despite the United States, United Kingdom pressure and support of GCC States to Iraqi opposition. Now the ground was being prepared for a direct invasion. Realizing that the American opinion would be more supportive of war if Saddam Hussein could be linked to international terrorism, the Bush
administration levelled charges against him that he was harbouring al-Qaida in northern Iraq and possessed the chemical and biological weapons. However, the invading forces did not find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and never provided credible evidence to prove the connection between Saddam Hussein and al-Qaida. The war against Iraq and its occupation did not win support from many countries in the region. A few Arab countries that supported the war efforts were under great stress as they were doing so against strong popular opposition. The United States was certain that the success in the war would strengthen the governments in West Asia which supported the war. Nothing like that seems to have happened. What the United States really wants is to redraw the political map of West Asia. It is believed that the success in Iraq would convey a message to other countries in West Asia not to obstruct the reconstruction of the entire region.