

# Iran, Iraq: What's the Difference?

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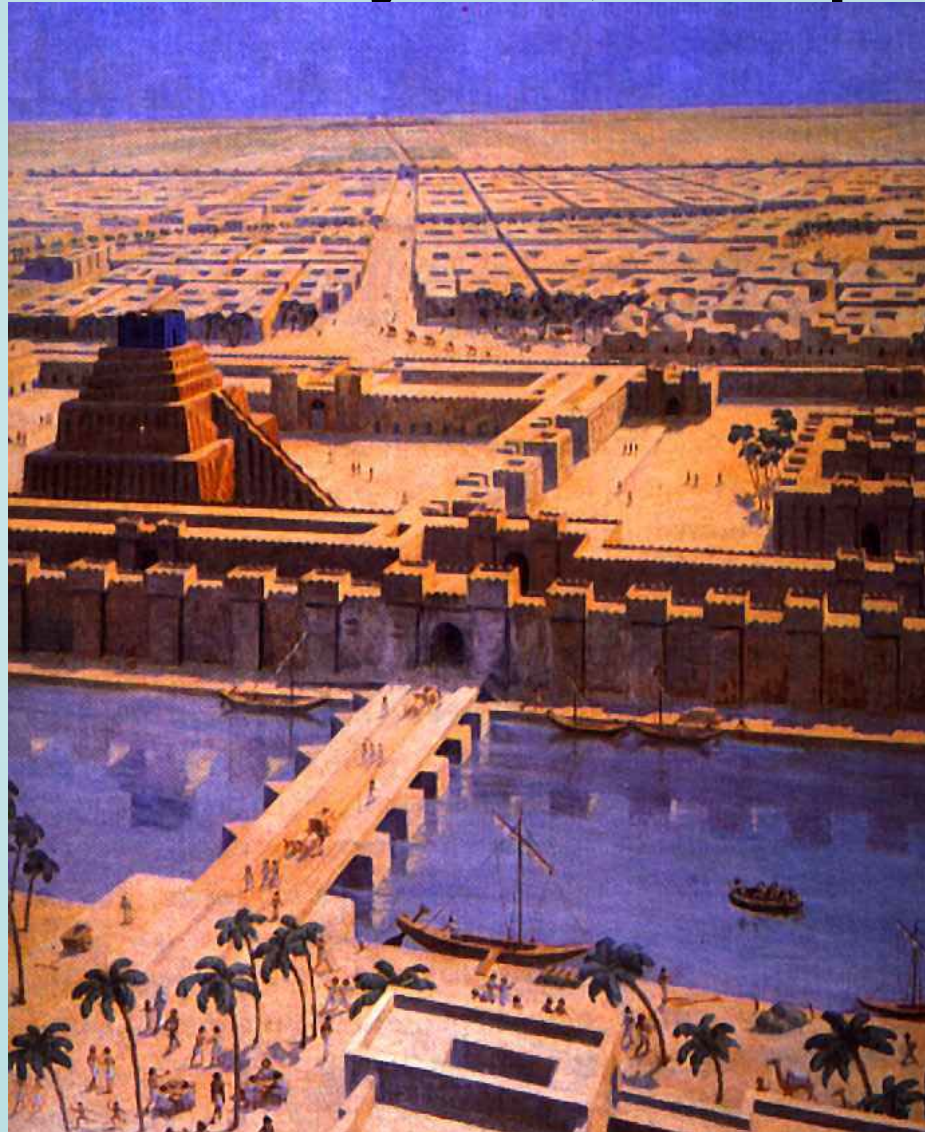
# Similarities:

- Several hundred years of common history.
- Regional identity and shared traditions (close association).
- Both have a Shi'a Muslim majority and share pilgrimage sites.
- Both write their languages in the same alphabet and share some common terms.

# Differences:

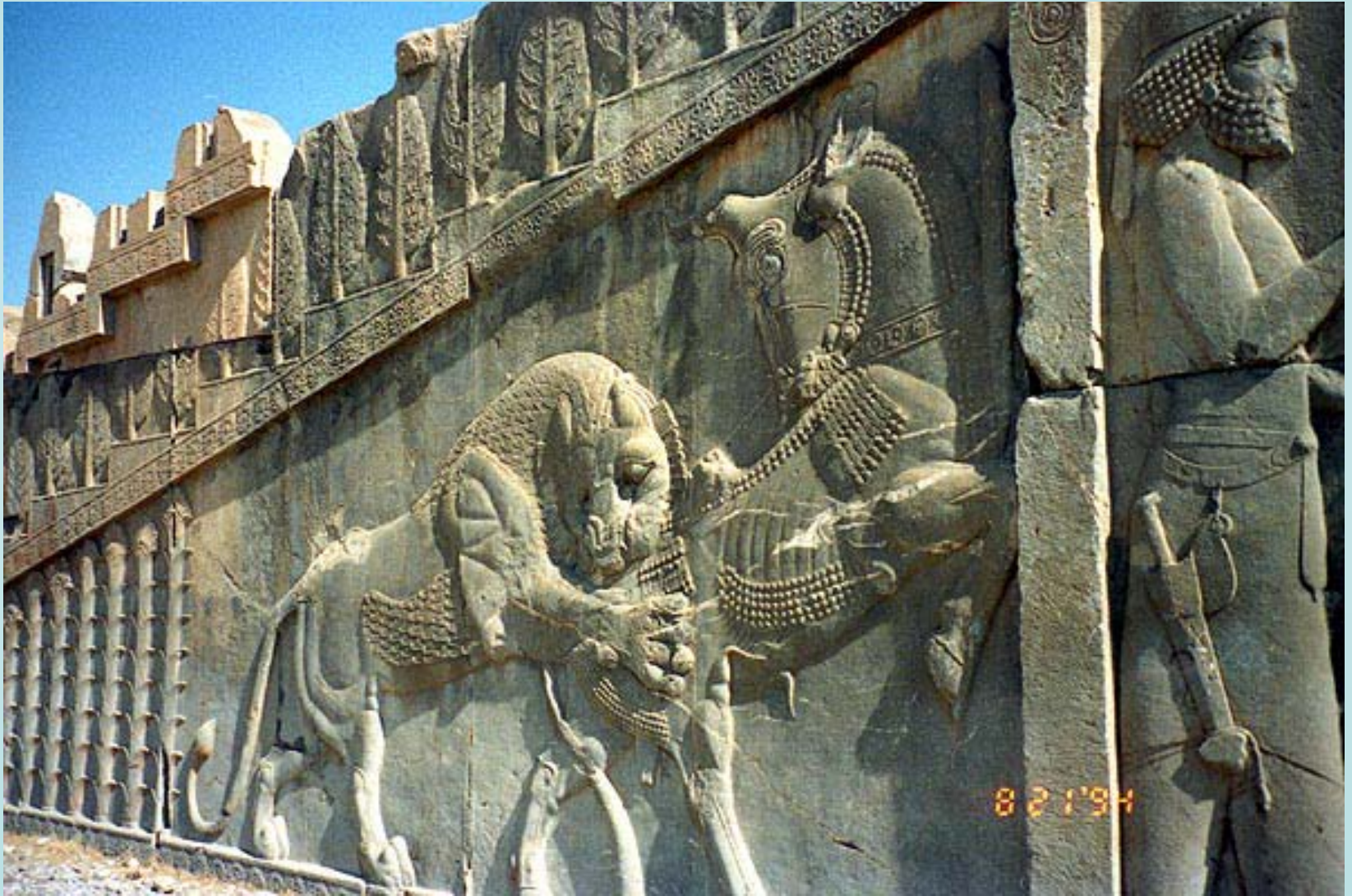
- Several thousand years of separate history (in modern times, for example, Iran was not part of the Ottoman Empire).
- Different enemies (in modern times).
- Iranian traditions shaped by Zoroastrian religion; Iraq influenced by Sunni Islam.
- Different languages (Iran's main language is Persian; Iraq's is Arabic.)

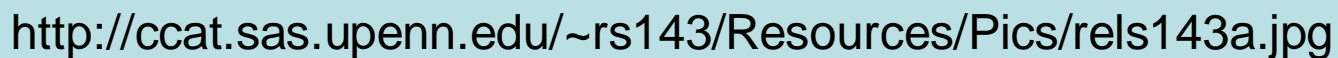
# Babylon, Iraq





# Persepolis, Iran









# Euphrates River, Iraq



<http://cache.eb.com/eb/image?id=1730&rendTypeld=4>

# Desert in Iraq



<http://www.snifflegear.com/Photos/Iraqi%20Desert%202.jpg>

# Dohuk Province, Iraq



<http://travel.u.nu/pic/iq/4642.jpg>

# Baghdad, Iraq







# Bandar Abbas (as seen from the Persian Gulf)



# Desert in Iran



# Iranian Kurdistan





# Caspian Sea, Iran



[http://i1.trekearth.com/photos/44753/seaside\\_view\\_s\\_.jpg](http://i1.trekearth.com/photos/44753/seaside_view_s_.jpg)

# Snow in Tehran (not a rare sight in winter)





# Persian Language (Iran)

- Also called “Farsi”
- Indo-European (Aryan)
- Dialects of Persian also spoken in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and among minorities in other states
- Arabic alphabet (with some differences) and some borrowed words from Arabic

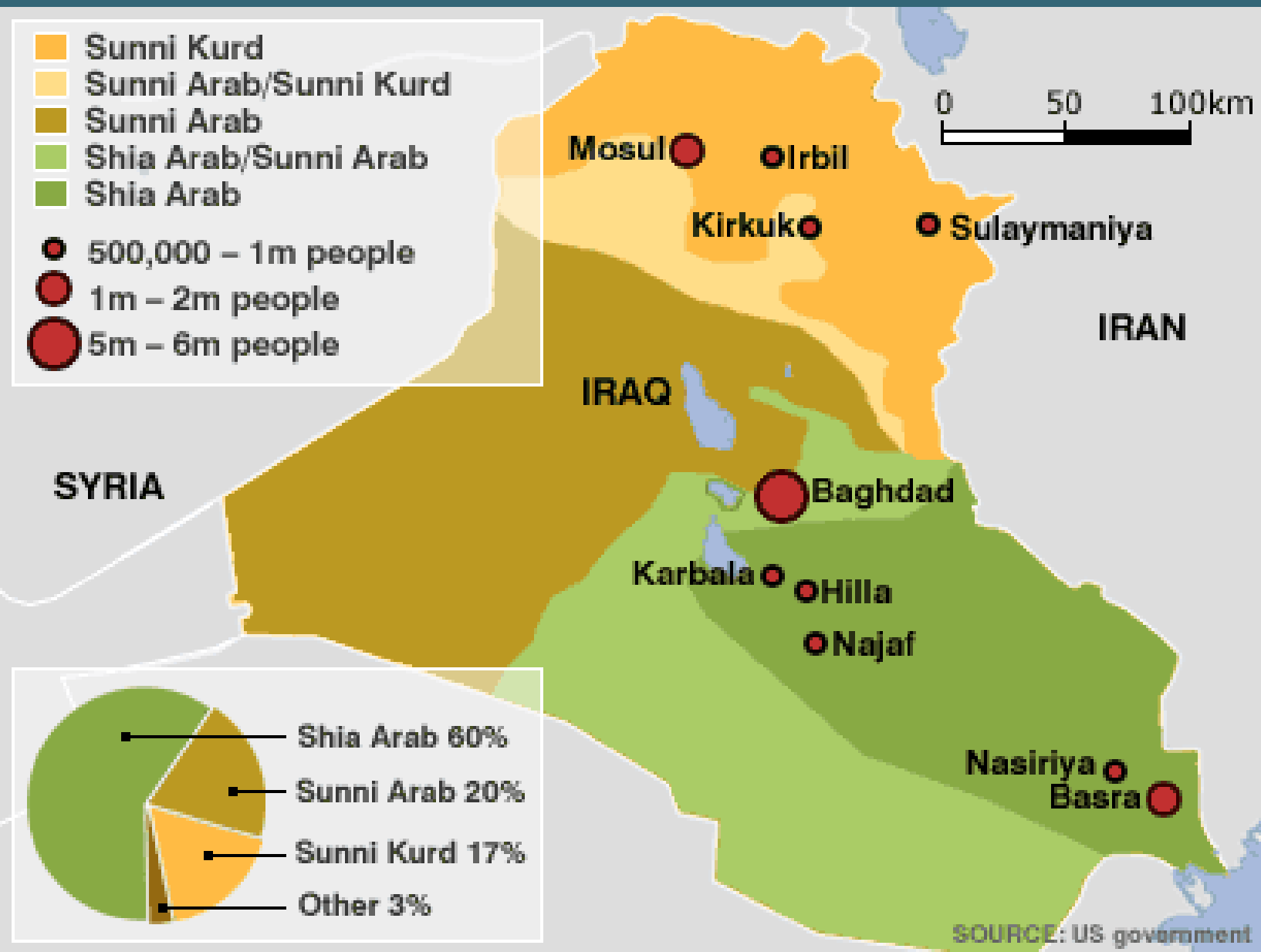


# Arabic language (Iraq)

- Semitic language (like Hebrew)
- Spoken throughout North Africa and southwestern Asia
- Also the liturgical language of Islam



## RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC GROUPS IN IRAQ



# Nooruz (New Year), celebrated by the Kurds of Iraq





# Shi'a Muslim holy place – Qom, Iran



# Shi'a Muslim holy place – Karbala, Iraq

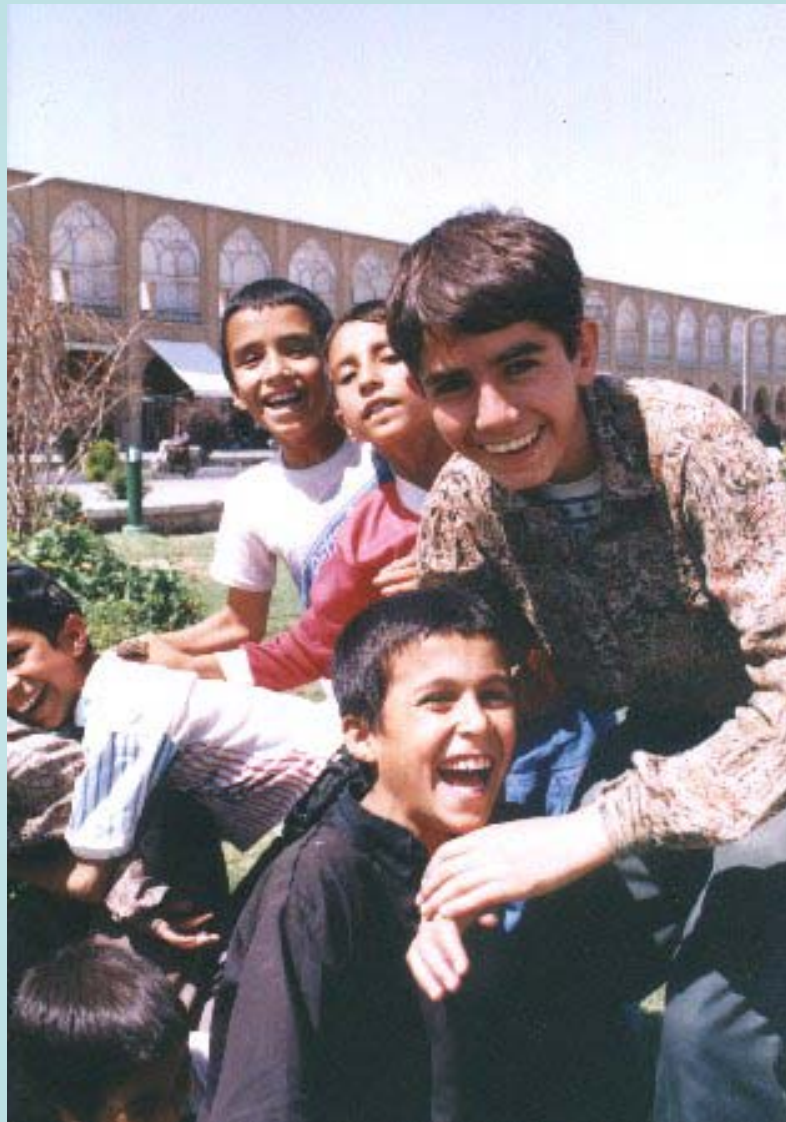


<http://www.pictureninja.com/pages/iraq/karbala-mosque.JPG>

# Afghani children in Torbat-e Jam refugee “guest city” in Iran



# Iranian children



<http://www.geocities.com/Pentagon/Base/1406/Pictures/more/kids2.jpg>



# Iraqi children

