

Notes for a talk at Occidental College titled "Designing a Constitution in Aid of Development: Lessons from Iraq"

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I. Our experience in Iraq

A - Arrival in "Gypsy Camp" in Green Zone (Saddam's ^{Palaces +} govt offices)

3 days in Jordan - "Security training" + waiting for sandstorms to pass

\$ min.

Trip from airport - 3 ^{armed} cars; flak jackets, armed guards -

Gypsy camp = rows of trailers on sand, boardwalks between; guards (American, Scottish... etc (Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Ireland))

"American Bubble"; eg guards brought us pizzas in boxes labelled "New York Style Pizzas"

B. Relation to delegates - haphazard = little opportunity to talk with ^{constitution} drafters

1 - Daily sat in Convention Hall - a few scheduled ^{eg on federalism} meetings, some by chance - to discuss issues

2 - Translation = key problem -

3 - ~~the~~ 5 day workshop w. Parliamentary staff/drafting

4 - ~~the~~ mtg / 1/2 hr - w. Parl. staff on importance of grounding laws on facts & logic - not power

One afternoon - (from 1 hr → 3) w. Parliament members not in Const'l Cttee

C. Had spent 2 yrs / US Inst. for Peace seminars - ~~state~~

1. Focused on constitutions as way to help resolve civil conflicts - 19 constitutions (from SA to Afghanistan, Brazil, Eritrea - etc)

2. Our view: Constitutions should structure institutions for governance to help societies resolve social problems

D. Question: What can we learn from Iraqi experience

I. Social problems confront Iraq

A - map - Iraq = $\frac{1}{3}$ size of US

B - History (brief sketch) \rightarrow steeped ^{deep} in history, laws of today

1 - 1000s of yrs = Baghdad = intellectual, commercial center of Middle East

2 \rightarrow 'Province' of Ottoman Empire

3 - Europeans defeated Ottomans - early 20th C \rightarrow divided into states dominated by colonial powers - England controlled Iraq =

a - comprised $\frac{1}{2}$ of Mesopotamia (divided w. Turkey, Iran)

S = Shia; sunis in center / Baghdad - but = intertwined

b - British controlled, developed oil

c - After WWI, Iraqi monarchy - till 1958

d - 1972 Baathists nationalized oil / "socialist"

aims = developed, health, "social justice" = women's progress \rightarrow ed, professionals

4 - Saddam Hussein - gradually took over Baathists &

gained control of military \rightarrow Bayn wan m-Iraq (w. US supt) = destroyed infrastruct, weakened

ec \rightarrow shifted ~~to~~ conservative to win supt of powerful groups \rightarrow reduced women's rts

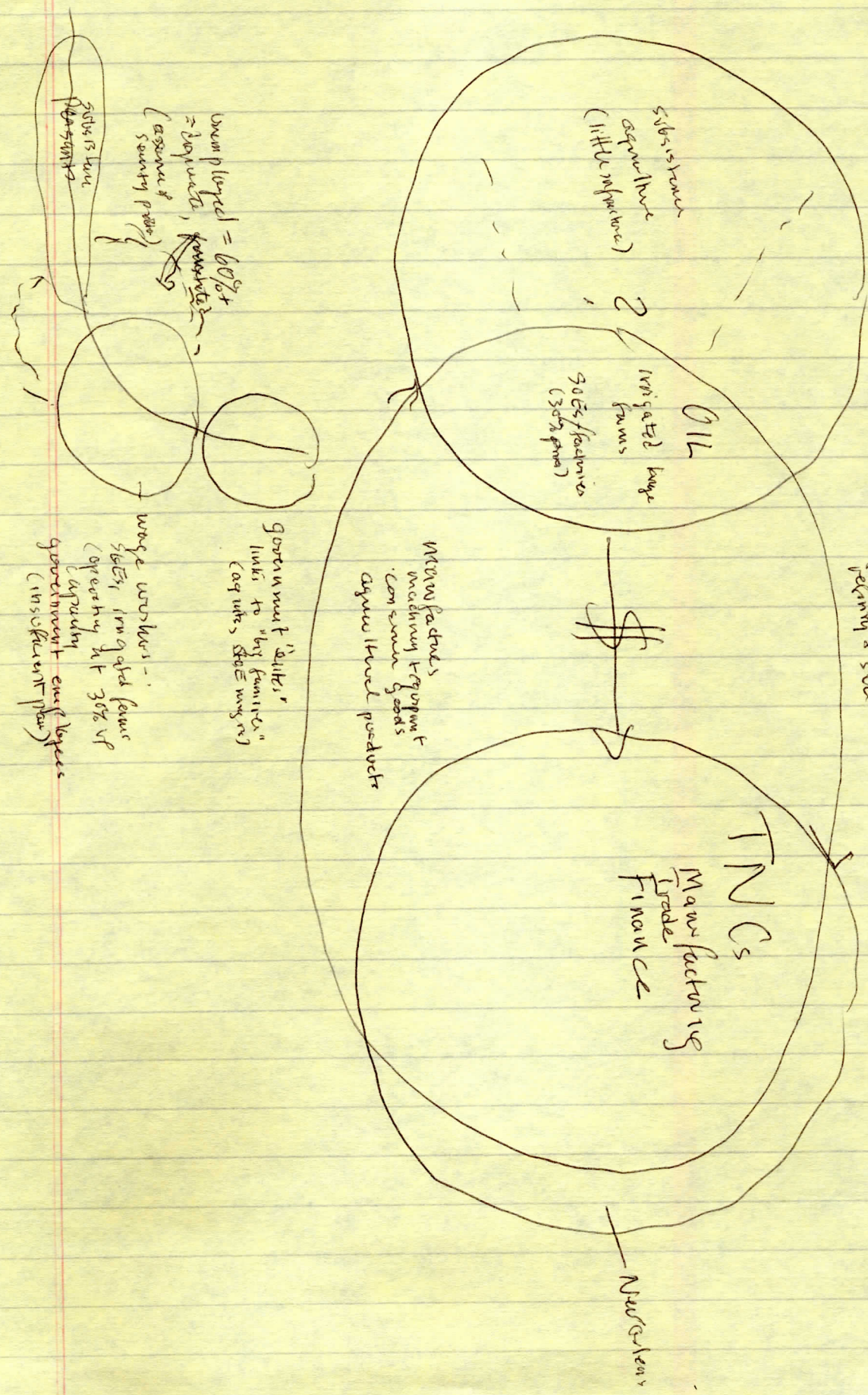
b) Kuwait war = hoped to contr. oil + port \rightarrow loss, UN sanctions = further undermined

economy = among most impoverished people

C = ~~found~~ economic structure / impoverished developing countries - despite apparent oil potential
[notes showed MP? This model - all agreed]

5 mins

big land deal w. Turkey
Federal structure
oil controlled by forces



98% taxable oil sold to
 foreign companies for
 primary & sec

Manufactures