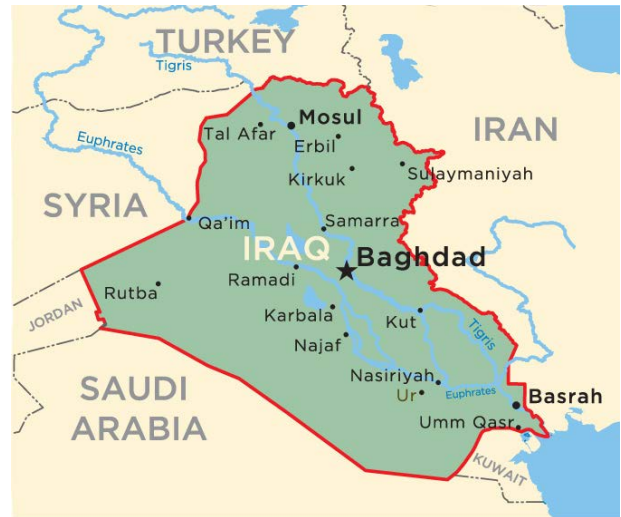


## Iraq War

The Iraq war started years before American soldiers actually touched the ground. Iraq disregarded the United Nation's weapons ban prohibiting nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. The discovery of these weapons in Iraq during an inspection in the 1990's eventually led to the bombing of an Iraqi military installation ordered by the United States President Bill Clinton in 1998. Iraq still refused to cooperate. The 9/11 attacks in 2001 caused by al-Qaeda, a terrorist group thought to be supported by Iraq, pushed the U.S. to focus on Iraq and disband their army. Before bombs were dropped on Baghdad, the government was warned that an attack would



happen if the president did not leave within 48 hours. Americans invaded Iraq on March 20th of 2003 and ultimately started the war in Iraq. On April 9th, the United States took control of Baghdad, and Britain secured Al-Basrah. December 13th of 2003, Saddam Hussein was captured, but was not given to Iraqi authorities until June of the following year. He was later convicted and set to be executed on December 30th of 2006. This resulted in looting and disorder throughout the country, which led to guerrilla warfare, and the United States continued to send more and more troops. In November of 2008, a plan was made with Iraq to evacuate the American troops. The final American combat brigade left Iraq on August 18, 2010, but 50,000 American troops remained for transition purposes. In December 2011, the United States formally declared the end of their occupation in Iraq. As of July, 2014, 1.9 million Iraqis were relocated to safer places. Of those 1.9 million refugees, 280 are in Pennsylvania. If you would like more information, you can watch the following video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T2tbpUqNwRU>

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"Pennsylvania Refugee Resettlement Program." *Get the Facts*, Pennsylvania Refugee Resettlement Program, [www.refugeesinpa.org/GettheFacts/index.htm](http://www.refugeesinpa.org/GettheFacts/index.htm).

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