

INTRODUCTION

This book constitutes the memoirs of an Iraqi who was deeply involved with the Iraqi atomic energy program for thirty years, from its peaceful beginnings to its overtly military applications and its final disintegration.

Through recounting the various scientific roles that I undertook while working for the Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission, the book attempts to reflect the history of Iraq's nuclear program and trace the course that led to the rise of its short-lived potential and ultimately its final demise.

The narrative about the development of the program is combined with the memoirs of one individual who gave the major part of his life to the Iraqi nuclear program. The "*memoirs*" will attempt to give the background to this endeavor, reveal how my commitment to the project was formed, show how tenacious we scientists were in the pursuit of our objectives, and, ultimately, describe my disengagement from the program and departure from my country.

The "*delusions*" of the Anglo-US claims that after the 1991 war Iraqi nuclear weapons existed, or there was still an active program to produce them, have been proven to be part of a massive deception aimed at creating a *casus belli* justifying an invasion of Iraq.

Upon "coming out" in August 2002 when I first realized that President George Bush fully intended to wage a pre-emptive war on Iraq on the pretext that Iraq possessed banned weapons of mass destruction and his emphasis on the nuclear weapons threat, I direly predicted in my first published article, "Iraq's nuclear non-capability", that Bush and British Premier Tony Blair "are pulling their public by the nose, covering their hollow patriotic egging on with once again shoddy Intelligence. But the two parading emperors have no clothes", as is by now quite evident.

The first part of the book exposes the aggressive schemes and uncovers the roots of the American neoconservatives who

launched and drove forward the campaign to wage war on Iraq and occupy the country, precipitating its free fall into an abyss.

Furthermore, I contend that the neoconservatives—acting in the service of Israel's interests—adroitly exploited the inherent cruelty and insecurity in the “American Way of Life” to attain their ends. I recognized and experienced the cruel and insecure aspects in the “American Way of Life” during my university years (1961-68) in the US.

Lies and distortions not only led to the occupation of Iraq, but also, between 1990 and 2003, enabled the US and Britain to maintain the punitive sanctions regime which caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians. Since there was no evidence that Iraq retained stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction after the early nineties, the strangulating sanctions regime should have been lifted long ago. The fact that the sanctions were stubbornly maintained by these two powers is a monstrous crime which makes the thousands of deaths caused by the war of occupation pale in comparison.

By the time they waged this war, an incapacitated and heavily damaged Iraq was like a collection of beads strung precariously together by a notoriously repressive dictator. The US, in its reckless bravado cut the string.

Today, the US is, all at once, attempting to implement multiple objectives in Iraq: eliminate weapons of mass destruction it cannot find, combat terrorism, remove all traces of the Saddam regime, establish a free economy, build a democracy and normalize relations between Iraq and Israel. In reality, the US cannot fill the vacuum it created by abolishing the 80-year old Iraqi state. In fact, the US appears to be stuck in its tracks like a wet hand on a frozen metal. Its ruthless historical rise to political preeminence does not mean it has the capability to comprehend or repair the damage it has wrought unto Iraq.

However, the Iraqi people will rebuild their country.

August 2003