Iraq Background

1) Originally part of Ottoman Empire – crumbling by 19th century

2) WWI and Mid East:

- Germany, GB, and France looking to acquire territory

- Rise of Arab nationalism – manipulated by T.E. Lawrence v Turks (allied to Germans)

- Balfour Declaration – plans to give away Palestine

- 1916 Sykes-Picot secret agreement between GB & France

- Final resolution:

  Iraq, Jordan, Palestine → GB

  Faisal as king of Iraq

  Syria, Lebanon → France

  Jews → Palestine

3) Iraqi monarchy lacked strong support

Overthrown by Baathists 1958

Neo-Stalinist regime: secular & based on terror & development

4) 1980s: Iran-Iraq War

Brutality

Chemical weapons

US tilt to Iraq – giving satellite data

5) August 1990 Iraq invades Kuwait

1991 US pushes Iraq out of Kuwait

Expected coup v Saddam, but didn't happen

Bush incites, then abandons, uprisings by Kurds & Shia

Schwarzkopf had left Saddam helicopter gunships to put down uprising

Grievance of human rights hawks like Peter Galbraith

6) 1990s: containment

Sanctions – moral?

Michael Walzer says no – kill more than war, & target civilians

Inspections:

Saddam obstructed and evaded

Dragged on partly to harass Saddam – doubted they'd ever end

Infiltrated by CIA – picking mil. targets too

(Blix's response when set up UNMOVIC)

Brinksmanship with bombing

UNSCOM withdrawn 1999 for bombing

By time GWB took office, sanctions leaky, no inspections, security council divided & will of US publicly flouted by Saddam.

This = background to neocons' sense of grievance

2002-3 buildup → new inspections (UNMOVIC under Blix)

But neocons wanted to invade & finish off Saddam