

Abstract

This thesis examines how the 2003 US invasion reshaped Iraq's education system from 2003 to 2010, highlighting the pivotal role of education in the country's reconstruction. Beginning with Saddam Hussein's era, marked by politicized schools but also notable educational achievements in the 1980s, it subsequently delves into the disruptive effects of the Gulf War and UN sanctions on Iraqi society. The thesis then analyzes the upheaval caused by the invasion and occupation, particularly focusing on its repercussions for primary, secondary, and tertiary education, as well as its social impact on children and adolescents. Additionally, it evaluates the role of international humanitarian aid, with a specific focus on initiatives led by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Ultimately, the thesis contends that while the US invasion significantly impacted Iraqi education, pre-existing conflicts and poorly executed reconstruction efforts compounded the challenges. It underscores the urgent need to prioritize the restoration of education and healthcare as fundamental steps towards rebuilding Iraqi society.