

The Longest War: Iran-Iraq War (from 1980 to 1988)

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Backgrounds

Iran



Area 636,293 sq. miles (1,648,000 sq.km)

Population (1985 estimated) 48,000,000

Capital city Tehran

Gross domestic product (GDP) per capita (1984)
\$3,747

Population in main cities (1985 estimated)

Tehran	5,800,000
Esfahan	850,000
Mashhad	830,000
Tabriz	720,000
Shiraz	530,000
Ahvaz	350,000
Kermanshah	350,000
Qom	320,000

Iraq



Area 169,284 sq. miles (438,446 sq.km)

Population (1985 estimated) 15,000,000

Capital city Baghdad

Gross domestic product (GDP) per capita (1984)
\$2,185

Population in main cities (1980 estimated)

Baghdad	4,000,000
al-Basrah	750,000
Mosul	600,000
Kirkuk	500,000
Arbil	380,000
an-Najaf	250,000
Karbala	150,000
Sulaymaniyah	140,000

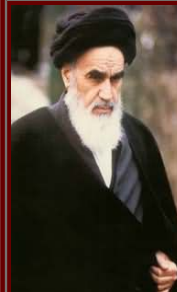
Leaders

The Supreme Leader of Iran

Grand Ayatollah [Ruhollah Khomeini](#)

Born-died 1902-1989

Took office 1979.12.3-1989.6.3



The President of Iraq

The President of Iran

Abolhassan Banisadr

1980.2.4-1981.6.22 (impeached)

Political Party: Independent

Mohammad Ali Rajai

1981.8.2-1981.8.30 (assasinated)

Political Party: Islamic Republic PartyAli Khamanei

1981.10.13-1989.8.3

Political Pary:

Islamic Republic Party until 1987,Combatant Clergy Association since 1987Saddam HusseinBorn-died:
1937.4.28-
2006.12.30Took office:
1979.7.16-
2003.4.9Political
Party:
Baath Party

Timeline

Guide: Due to the complexity, long lastingness, and wide involvement of the Iran-Iraq War, it is hardly possible to put all of the events into a single timeline without confusing readers. So here, three dimensional timelines with different functions are provided, which are the year-by-year timeline, the month-by-month timeline and the day-by-day timeline, helping readers to obtain the general trend of this long war and the detailed information about each important campaign at the same time. The year-by-year timeline aims to display each period of the war. Linking from each year, the month-by-month timeline focuses on the important events during that year, such as big campaigns and political and diplomatic changes. When necessary, some months can be extended to see every day in that month, that is the day-by-day timeline, showing the development of complicated campaigns. In addition, in the month-by-month timeline and the day-by-day timeline there are links of the key word to a variety of resources, including texts, charts, statistics, documents, maps, photographs, and external websites. So it is suggested to follow the order of the year-month-and-day timeline to watch this war and jump to the provided link for further information.

1980	Iraq invades Iran.
1981	Iran launches major offensives.
1982	Iran succeeds in pushing Iraqi forces out of Iran.
1983	Iran launches offensive inside Iraq.
1984	Iran renews offensive in Iraq. Iraq starts the "tanker war".
1985	Both sides step up attacks on major cities.
1986	Iraq launches some successful counter-attacks.
1987	Iraq retakes its land mass and launches the "war of the cities".

1988

Iran and Iraq agree to ceasefire.



A large number of battal fields are kept unchanged in Khuzestan as "holy place".



"Pilgrims" are led to walk through the lane of the battle fields, and pray and cry for martyrs.



Nearly all of them take off their shoes and have their feet hurt for getting close to the dead people.



A mosque used by soldiers during the war.



People find a place to stay alone for a while, and read poems or Quran and cry silently.



From an Iranian port in the Shatt al-Arab river can be seen a city of Iraq.



A big sign stands on the Iranian port, which can be seen everywhere in Khuzistan.



A former wartime hospital is used for student base.



2007.03.12

Many flags on the hill of the hospital.



Students lodge at former barracks and listen to the speech from mullahs and veterans.

1. Defense Expenditure of Iran and Iraq

2. Statistics on Oil industry

Documents:

[The Treaty of Erzeroum \(1847\)](#)

[The Treaty of Erzurum \(1911\)](#)

[The Constantinople Protocol \(1913\)](#)

[Frontier Treaty Between the Kingdom of Iraq and the Empire of Iran with the Annexed Protocal, July 4, 1937](#)

[Algiers Declaration of March 6, 1975](#)

[Treaty Concerning the State Frontier and Neighborly Relations Between Iraq and Iran \(1975\)](#)

[United Nations Security Council Resolution 598, July 20, 1987.](#)

[Timescale of principal events and documents from 1840 to 1958](#)

Maps (Continuing)

. Oil Maps

o Oil Fields

- oil fields in the Persian Gulf
- oil fields in the southwest of the Persian Gulf
- oil fields around the boundary
- oil fields in the Shatt al-Arab
- oil fields near the Gulf of Oman

o Oil Industry

- oil industry in Iraq
- oil facilities in the Persian Gulf
- oil facilities around the boundary

o Oil Pipelines

- Iraq's oil pipelines

o Others

- world oil movement in 1983

. Boundary

- disputes in boundary 1
- disputes in boundary 2

. Geology

- the Strait of Hormoz

. Nations

- Kurdish area 1
- Kurdish area 2
- ethnoreligious groups in Iraq

. Military

- defence spending in 1982

A Bibliography on the Iran-Iraq War

Zheng, Qingting

This bibliographic paper is a supplement of J. Anthony Gardner's 1988 book, *The Iraq-Iran War: a Bibliography*. First of all, this paper aims to complement more research following the publication of Gardner's work. Although Gardner provides more than five hundred entries on the Iran-Iraq War in his book, including books, journal articles and documents in Western European languages as well as in Persian and Arabic, it is still insufficient to give readers a helpful guide to this war. The reason is that his compiling work ended at the beginning of 1987 while the war was continuing and before it changed greatly. Hence, a more comprehensive bibliography on the Iran-Iraq War, which includes its lessons, only clearly viewed after the war, is highly needed. Moreover, in order to help readers better understand this war, this paper also provides more visual materials, such as maps and videos. For example, maps, which are underestimated by Gardner, are significantly helpful in understanding the historical boundary issue, nation conflict, oil-vying and so forth. In addition, I also collect a number of statistic information about Iran and Iraq during the 1980s, hopefully which can solve the problem of lacking reliable statistics for the research on the Iran-Iraq War, at least to some degree.

This bibliographic paper does not repeat the entries from Gardner's bibliography, but supplements it with more recent materials into the extant category of the book in an attempt to make the bibliographic control more effective. Under each heading, materials are divided by language, with English followed by other languages; under each subheading of language, entries are arranged by the name of the author alphabetically. At the last of this paper, a new heading of maps is added.

The Library of Congress transliteration system is used for the Arabic, Persian and other languages. The form of the citation follows the general practice of the *Chicago's Manual of Style*, 15th Edition.

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1980

January	
February	
March	
April	
May	
June	
July	
August	
<u>September</u>	Saddam Hussein disowns 1975 agreement. Iraq invades Iran.
October	Khomeini appoints <u>President Bani Sadr</u> chairman of Iran's Supreme Defence Council. Saddam Hussein claimed the war as a liberation of Arab territory that would be a first step toward reclaiming Palestine, and as a battle on behalf of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the other Gulf states against Iran.
<u>November</u>	Iraqi troops invade <u>Khuzestan</u> and take entire control of Khorramshahr.
December	Military stalemate caused by wet winter.

1981

January	Iranians push back Iraqis around Ahvaz.
February	
March	
April	
May	
June	Israeli warplanes destroy a nuclear installation near Baghdad.
July August	Iran mounts a series of small attacks in the area adjoining Abadan which is under siege.
September	The Iranians regain Abadan.
October	Hojatalism Ali Hussein Khamanei is elected president of Iran.
November December	Iran retakes territories around Abadan and north of Susangard in a series of minor attacks.

1982

January

February

March

The Iranians expel the Iraqis from the Dezful-Shush area.

April

Iran launches a major offensive, Bait al-Muqaddas offensive.

May

The end of Iran's Bait al-Muqaddas offensive, culminating in the retaking of Khorramshahr and driving the Iraqis back to the international border.

June

Saddam announces evacuation from Iran.

At the Ninth Regional Congress of the Baath Party, Saddam reasserts his total control, and institutes major reshuffles of the RCC, the party of Regional Command and the Cabinet.

July

Iran rejects to stop fire and its invasion of Basra is unsuccessful.

August	Iraq declares a maritime exclusion zone around Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal in the Gulf, making any vessel entering it liable to attack.
September	
October	Iran's attempts to capture <u>Mandali</u> are unsuccessful.
November	Iranian offensives in the <u>Musian</u> area yield some gains.
December	

1983

January	
February	The Iranian offensive in <u>Fakeh</u> to capture the Basra-Baghdad road is unsuccessful. It scores only limited gains.
March	Iraq strikes Iran's <u>Nowruz</u> oilfield in the Gulf.
April	Iran launches offensive between <u>Musian and Fakeh</u> , but Iraqis break the attack.
May	
June	
July	Tehran stages an offensive west of <u>Mehran</u> in the central sector which achieves limited gains.
August	
September	
October	Iran mounts an offensive in Kurdistan near <u>Panjwin</u> and makes modest gains.
November	
December	The year ends with 16 Iraqi attacks on shipping in the Gulf to Iran's 0.

1984

Pink Color indicates the Tanker War.

January	
February	Tehran mounts a major offensive, codenamed Khaibar, in the Haur al-Hawizeh marshes.
March	Iran retains control of Iraq's oil-rich Majnoon Islands in the Haur al-Hawizeh marshland.
April	Iraq escalates the <u>Tanker War</u> .
May	Iraq and Iran launch air strikes on commercial shipping and population centers.
June	
July	
August	In response to continued Iraqi raids on Kharg and Iranian tankers, Tehran sets up a tanker shuttle between Kharg and Sirri Island oil terminal in the Lower Gulf.
September	
October	Iran retakes part of the disputed border territory in the central sector lost to Iraq just before the war.
November	
December	The year ends with 53 Iraqi attacks on shipping in the Gulf to Iran's 18.

1985

January
February
March

Baghdad claims to have hit 30 Iranian oil tankers in three months.

The War of the Cities firstly starts from Iraq.

April

A ceasefire in the War of the Cities.

May

Iraq resumes the War of the Cities and intensifies the Tanker War and strikes on Kharg.

June

July

August

Intense and effective Iraqi air strikes against Kharg. Khamanei is re-elected president of Iran.

September

Iranian attacks gain in Kurdistan but lose in Iraq.
Iran receives 508 US-made Tow missiles in a secret arms-for-hostages deal with the Reagan administration.

October

Since August Iraq has staged 21 air sorties against Kharg.

November

The Assembly of Experts names Ayatollah Hussein Ali Montazeri as the successor to Khomeini.

December	During 1985 Iraq hit 22 ships in the Gulf, and Iran 14.
----------	---

1986

January	President Reagan authorizes the CIA to purchase 4000 Tow missiles from the Defense Department and sell them to Iran through Israel.
February	Major Iranian offensive in the <u>Fao Peninsula</u> is successful.
March	Iraqi attempts to retake Fao fail.
April	
May	Following Iraqi air raids on refineries in Tehran and Isfahan, Iran starts importing refined oil products.
June	
July	<p>Iraq intensifies its air strikes against Iran's economic and infrastructural targets.</p> <p>Iran retakes Mehran.</p> <p>Seven tonnes of US-made arms and spares are delivered to Iran via Spain and Yugoslavia.</p> <p>At the extraordinary Congress of the Baath Party, Saddam tightens control by reshuffling the RCC.</p>

August	By late August Iraq has mounted a total of 120 air sorties against Kharg over the preceding twelve months.
September	Iranians launch offensive around the Shatt al-Arab.
October	Iran carries out a commando raid on an oil pipeline near Kirkuk.
November	Iraq stages its furthest air raid yet, and strikes Iran's Larak Island oil facilities.
December	<p>Iran launches a major offensive, codenamed Karbala-Four, against the Iraqi forces near Basra. It fails.</p> <p>During 1986, Iraq strikes 66 ships in the Gulf, twice the total for 1985; and Iran 41, nearly three times the previous year's figure.</p>

1987

January	Iran launches several offensives.
February	Both sides diminish fires.
March	Iran scores limited gains in an offensive in the Hajj Umran basin of Kurdistan.
April	Iranian armies step further into Iraq.
May	The Iranians turn Farsi Island into a naval base.
June	Khomeini dissolves Iran's ruling Islamic Republican Party.
July	
August	
September	America and Western Europe send warships including minehunters to the Gulf. Tehran fails to provide an unequivocal reply to Resolution 598.
October	Iranian armies conflict with American armies in the Gulf.
November	

December

Iran stages probing attacks in the Fakeh area north of Basra.

During 1987, Iraq strikes 76 ships in the Gulf; and Iran 87, more than twice the previous year's total.

1988

January	A minor offensive by Iran near Mawet in Kurdistan.
February	Iraq renews the War of the Cities by bombing Saqqez in northern Iran. When Iran responds with missiles attacks on Baghdad, Iraq hits Tehran with long-range surface-to-surface missiles for the first time.
March	Iraq and Iran conflict in Kurdistan.
April	The first round of parliamentary elections in Iran. Iraq retake its lands and launches offensives.
May	The second round of parliamentary elections in Iran.
June	Iraq recaptures its lands. Khomeini appoints Rafsanjani as acting commander-in-chief of the armed forces in place of President Khamanei.
<u>July</u>	Iraq continues its positive position.
<u>August</u>	A ceasefire comes into effect.
September	
October	
November	
December	

Defense Expenditure

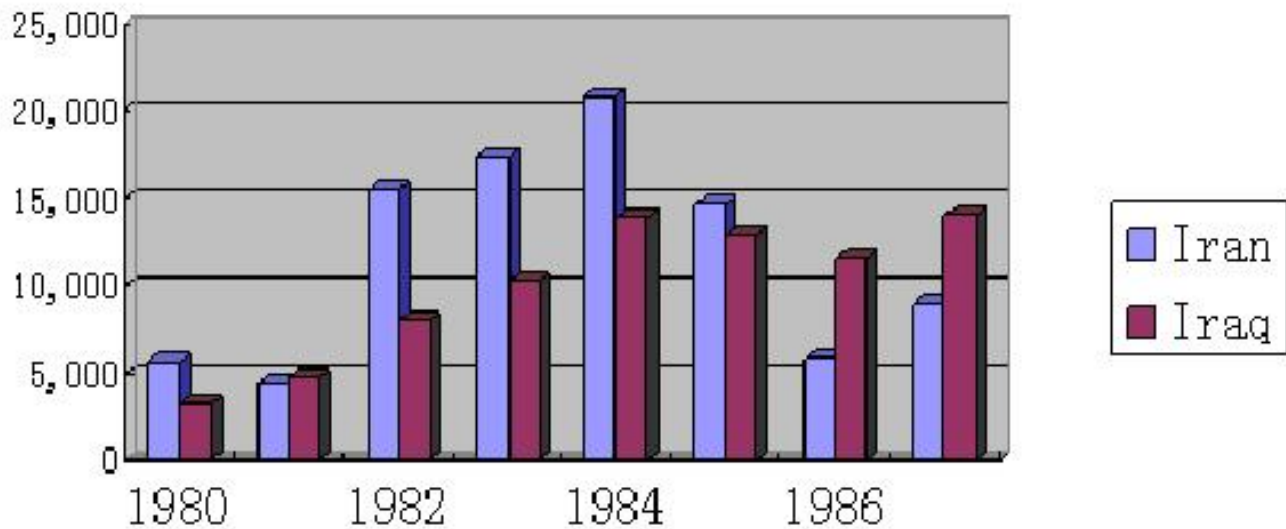
1. Defense Expenditure as Percentage of the National GDP

The Defense Expenditure as Percentage of National GDP



2. Defense Expenditure Comparison Between Iran and Iraq

Defense Expenditure Comparison Between Iran and Iraq



	Iran	Iraq
1980	5,665	3,386
1981	4,468	4,741
1982	15,550	8,043
1983	17,370	10,293
1983	20,852	13,835
1984	14,761	12,866
1985	5,904	11,583
1986	8,956	13,996

Adapted from various editions of *The Military Balance*, published by The International Institute for Strategic Studies, London.

Production and Exports of Crude Petroleum, Exchange Income from Oil and Gas Exports: 1977-1982

Year	Production (Million barrels)	Exports (Million barrels)	Income (Milliards of U.S. dollars)
1977	2067	1876	20.9
1978	1552	1263	18.1
1979	1260	958	19.3
1980	637	276	12.1
1981	526	340	11.9
1982	980	615	N/A

From August 1981, some crude petroleum has been delivered to refineries of foreign countries, such as Aden in Democratic Yemen, apart of which oil was imported to the country after being refined and the remaining part was sold in world markets. Crude petroleum delivered to refineries abroad was about 140,000 barrels per day in 1981 and 436,000 barrels per day in 1982.

Source: Ministry of Oil, Iran

Crude Petroleum Refined in Domestic Refineries: 1978-82 (Thousand cubic metres)

Refinery	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Total	41036	45774	24661	31349	32583
Abadon	26130	29860	0	0	0
Bakhtaran	702	623	268	0	0
Masjed Soleyman (distillation plant)	0	0	0	0	29
Tehran	9803	9923	10959	12073	11896
Shiraz	1236	1930	2364	2095	2321

Lavan (distillation comlex)	0	0	0	720	870
Tabriz	3165	2956	2956	4273	4120
Esfahan	0	482	482	12188	13347

Refinery of Esfahan started operation in 3 February, 1979, with an intake of 72,000 barrels per day.

Source: Ministry of Oil, Iran

Crude Petroleum Produced by Iran and Iraq: 1978-1983 (Thousand barrels/day)

Year	Iran	Iraq
1978	5275	2560
1979	3175	3475
1980	1480	2645
1981	1320	895
1982	1975	980
1982	2426	1005

Source: Ministry of Oil, Iran

Crude Petroleum Exports of Iran and Iraq: 1978-82 (Thousand barrels/day)

Year	Iran	Iraq
1978	4447.1	2384.4
1979	2407.0	3275.3
1980	796.7	2459.0
1981	714.6	746.1
1982	1623.2	811.4

Source: Ministry of Oil, Iran

Percent Share of Iran in World Crude Petroleum Exports: 1978-82 (Thousand barrels/day)

Year	Iran	World	Percent
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1978	4447.1	31810.7	14.0
1979	2407.0	33481.4	7.2
1980	796.7	29857.0	2.7
1981	714.6	25796.9	2.8
1982	1623.2	22350.8	7.3
1983			
1984	1718.7	21242.3	7.1
1985	1521.8	21499.2	7.1
1986	1568.3	20553.6	7.6
1987	1454.0	23222.4	6.3

Souce: Statistical Center of Iran

Frontier Treaty Between the Kingdom of Iraq and the Empire of Iran with the Annexed Protocol, July 4, 1937

FRONTIER TREATY BETWEEN THE KINGDOM OF IRAQ AND THE EMPIRE OF IRAN WITH THE ANNEXED PROTOCOL SIGNED ON JULY 4, 1937 IN TEHERAN

His Majesty the King of Iraq, of the one part, His Imperial Majesty the Shahinshah of Iran of the other part.

Sincerely desirous of consolidating the bonds of brotherly friendship and good understanding between the two States, and in order to definitely settle the frontier question between their two countries, have decided to conclude the present Treaty and for this purpose have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries :

His Majesty the King of Iraq : His Excellency Dr. Naji Al. Asil, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

His Imperial Majesty the Shahinshah of Iran : His Excellency Enayatollah Samiy, Minister of Foreign Affairs, who, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed on the following :

ARTICLE 1

The High Contracting Parties agree that the following documents, with the exception of the modification specified in Article 2 of the present Treaty, are considered valid and that

Article 2 of the present Treaty, are considered valid and that They are bound to observe them :

(a) The Protocol relating to the Turko-Persian Delimitation signed at Constantinople on November 4, 1913;

(d) The Proceedings of the Commission of Delimitation of the frontier of 1914.

Having regard to the provisions of this Article and with the exception of the provisions made in the following Article, the boundary between the two States is that defined and traced by the above-mentioned Commission.

ARTICLE 2

The boundary on reaching the furthest point of Shoteit Island (approximately latitude $30^{\circ} 17' 25''$ North, longitude $48^{\circ} 19' 28''$ East) rejoins, in a line drawn perpendicular to the low-water mark, the Thalweg of Shatt-al-Arab and follows it as far as a point situated opposite the existing jetty N° 1 of Abadan (approximately latitude $30^{\circ} 20' 8.4''$ North, longitude $48^{\circ} 16' 13''$ East). From this point the boundary rejoins the line of low-water and follows the tracing of the frontier as described in the Proceedings of 1914.

ARTICLE 3

Immediately after the signature of the present Treaty the High Contracting Parties shall appoint a commission for the purpose of erecting the frontier pillars the location of which has been fixed by the Commission mentioned in paragraph (b) of Article 1 of the present Treaty and of fixing additional pillars, which it considers useful to erect.

The composition of the Commission and the program of its

which it considers useful to erect.

The composition of the Commission and the program of its work shall be fixed by a special arrangement between the two High Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE 4

The following provisions shall apply to the Shatt-al-Arab from the point where the land frontier of the two States descends into the said river as far as the open sea :

(a) The Shatt-al-Arab shall remain open to merchant ships of all countries equally. All dues levied shall be in the nature of payment for services rendered and intended solely to cover in an equitable manner the expenses of maintaining the navigability, and improving the navigable channel and the approach of the Shatt-al-Arab from the seaward side, or to meet expenditures incurred in the interest of navigation. The said dues shall be calculated on the basis of the official tonnage of ships or their draught, or both together.

(b) The Shatt-al-Arab shall remain open to the passage of warships and other vessels belonging to the two High Contracting Parties used for non-commercial purposes.

(c) The fact that in the Shatt-al-Arab the boundary sometimes follows the low-water mark and sometimes the Thalweg or the medium filum aquae does not prejudice in any way the right of user of the two High Contracting Parties in the whole course of the river.

ARTICLE 5

The two High Contracting Parties, having a common interest

The two High Contracting Parties, having a common interest in the navigation of the Shatt-al-Arab as defined in Article 4 of the present Treaty, undertake to conclude a convention concerning the maintenance and improvement of the navigable channel, dredging, pilotage, dues to be levied, sanitary measures, measures to be taken for the prevention of smuggling and all other matters relating to the navigation in the Shatt-al-Arab as defined in Article 4 of the present Treaty.

ARTICLE 6

The present treaty shall be ratified and the instruments of ratification shall be exchanged at Baghdad as soon as possible.

It shall come into force as from the day when this exchange takes place.

In witness where of the Plenipotentiaries of the two High Contracting Parties have signed the present Treaty.

Done at Teheran, in Arabic, Persian and French, of which in case of difference the French text shall prevail, the fourth day of July, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven.

Signed *Naji Al-Asil*

Signed *Samiy.*

PROTOCOL

At the time of proceeding to the signature of the Treaty concerning the delimitation of the boundaries between Iraq and Iran, the two High Contracting Parties have agreed as follows :

1 - The geographical coordinates shown approximately in

1 - The geographical coordinates shown approximately in Article 2 of the above-mentioned Treaty shall be definitely fixed by a Commission of experts composed of an equal number of members nominated by each of the High Contracting Parties.

The definite geographical coordinates so determined within the limits fixed in the above-mentioned Article shall be recorded in a proces-verbal which, after having been signed by the members of the above-mentioned Commission, shall be an integral part of the Boundary Treaty.

2 - The High Contracting Parties undertake to conclude the convention mentioned in Article 5 of the Treaty in the course of one year from the entry into force of the Treaty.

If, notwithstanding the efforts exerted by Them, this convention is not concluded in the course of the year, this period may be extended by common agreement of the High Contracting Parties.

The Imperial Government of Iran agrees that during the period of one year mentioned in the first paragraph of this article and during the extension of this period, if this extension takes place, the Royal Government of Iraq shall undertake on the bases now in force all matters which are to be dealt with by this Convention. The Royal Government of Iraq shall, by means of biannual communications, keep the Imperial Govern-

ment of Iran informed of the works carried out, the dues levied, the expenses incurred and of all other measures taken.

3 - The authorization given by one of the High Contracting Parties to a warship or other public vessel used for non-commercial purposes belonging to a third State to enter ports belonging to the said High Contracting Party and situated on the Shatt-al-Arab shall be regarded as having been given by the other High Contracting Party in order that such vessel may

other High Contracting Party in order that such vessel may make use of its waters when passing through the Shatt-al-Arab.

Nevertheless, that High Contracting Party who has given such an authorization must inform the other Party thereof immediately.

4 - It is understood that subject to the rights of Iran in Shatt-al-Arab, nothing in this Treaty prejudices the rights of Iraq and its obligations undertaken towards the British Government regarding the Shatt-al-Arab in accordance with Article 4 of the Treaty dated June 30, 1930, and paragraph 7 of its Annexure, signed on the same date.

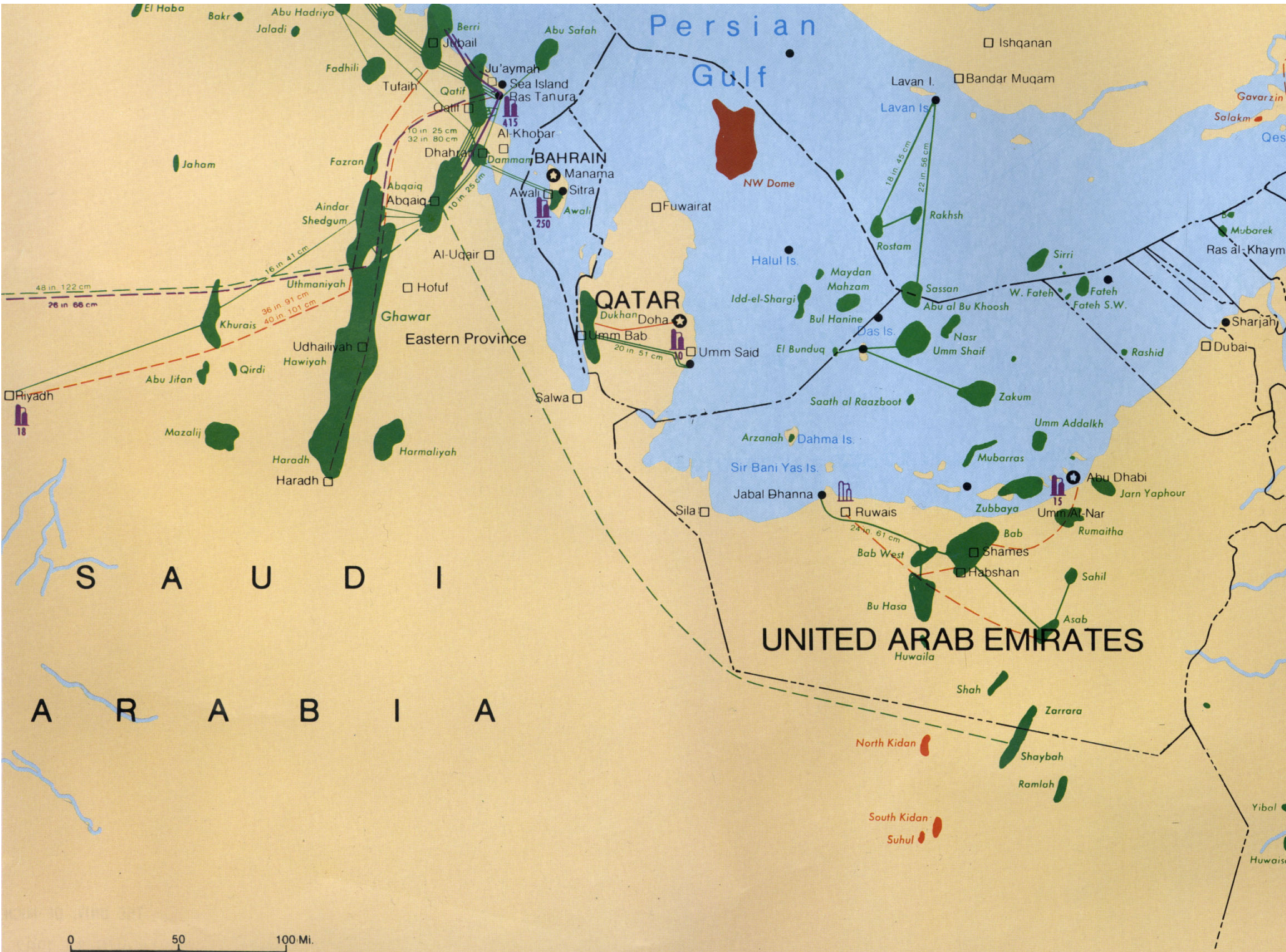
5 - The present Protocol shall be ratified at the same time as the Treaty concerning the delimitation of the frontiers of which it shall form, as an Annexure, an integral part. It shall come into force at the same time as this Treaty.

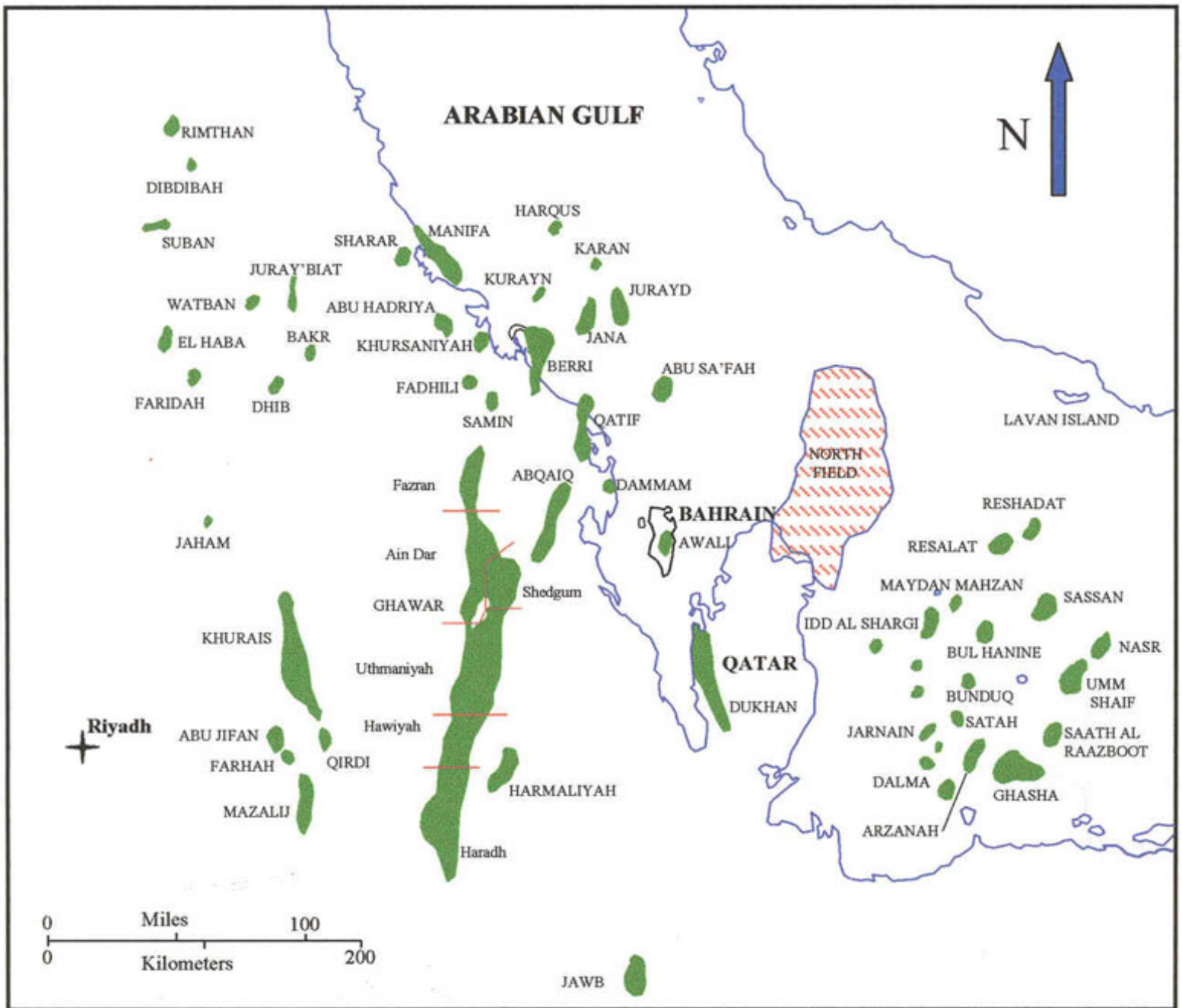
The present Protocol is made in Arabic, Persian and French. In case of difference the French text shall prevail.

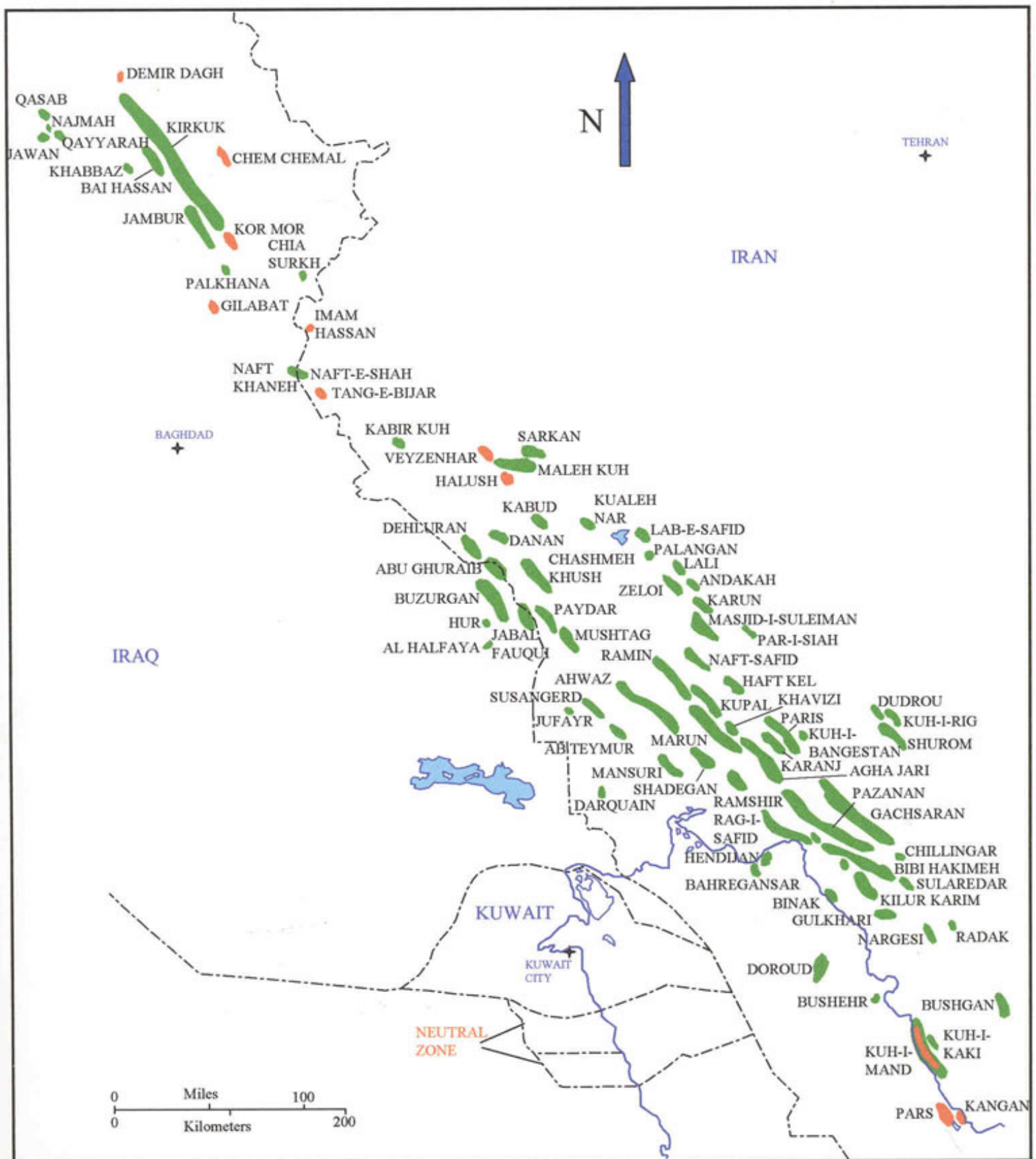
Done at Teheran in duplicate, on the fourth day of July, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven.

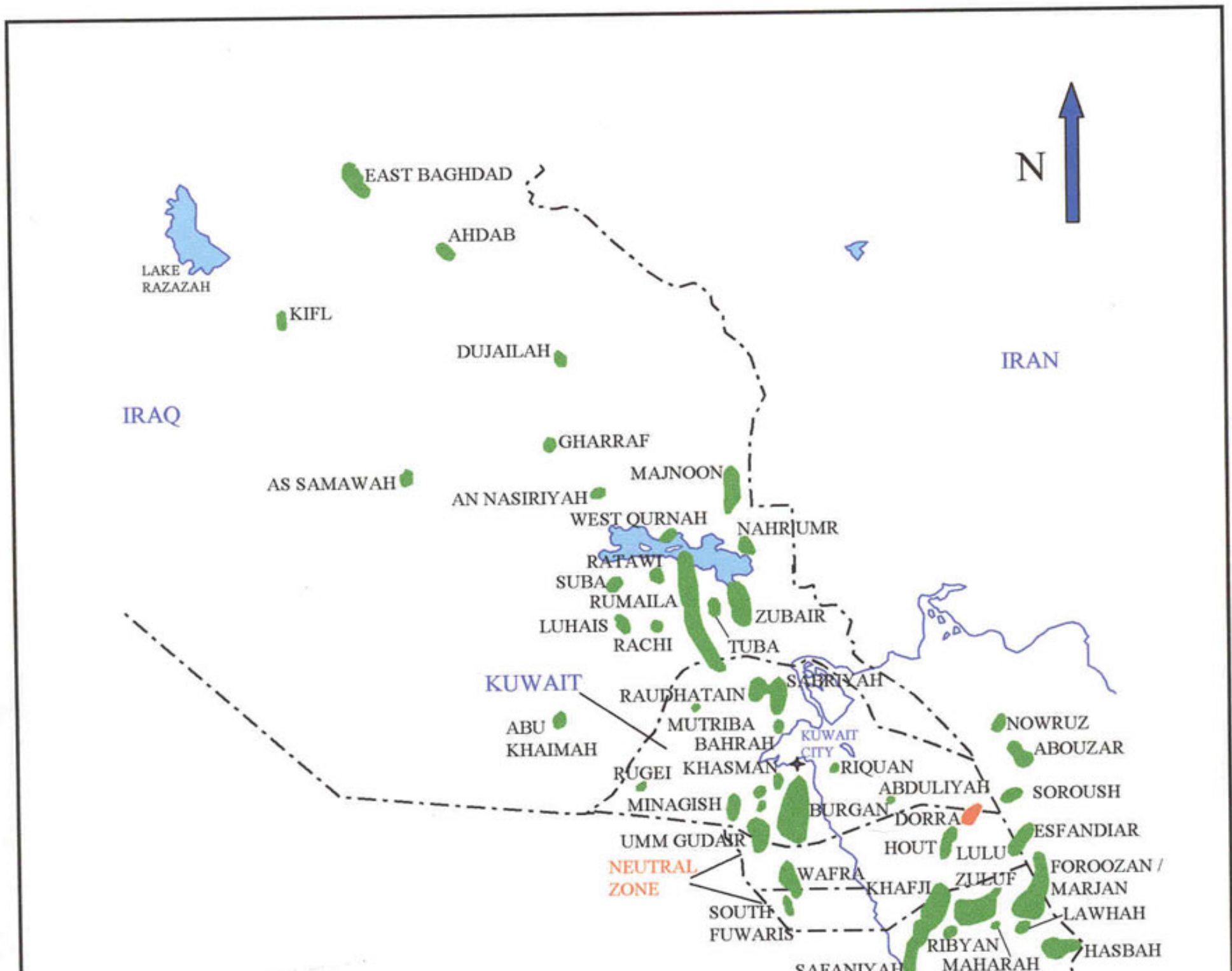
Signed *Naji Al-Asil*

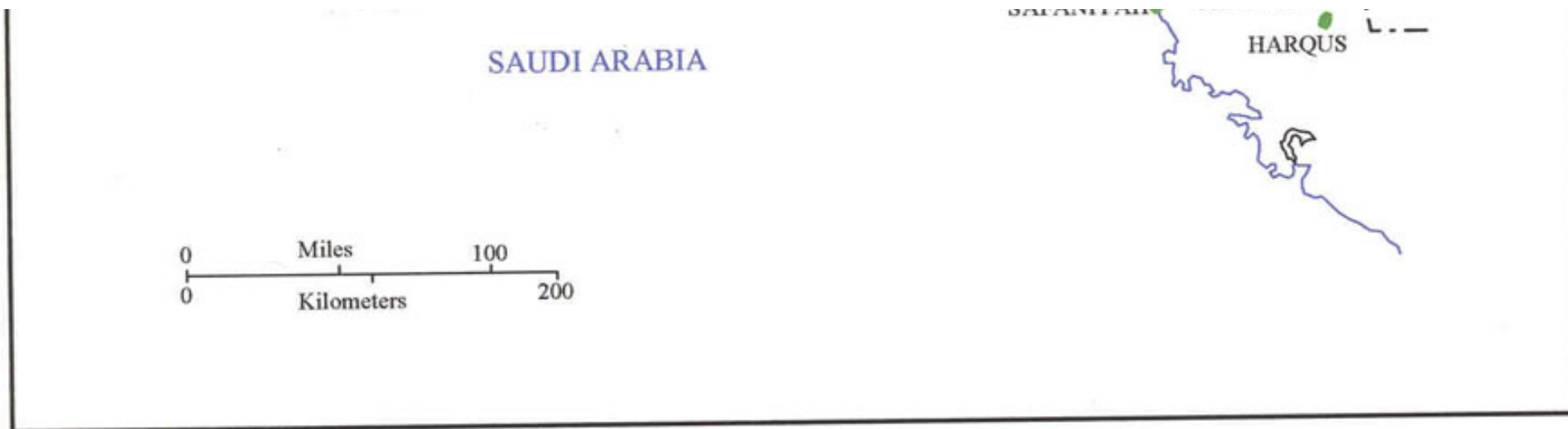
Signed *Samiy.*

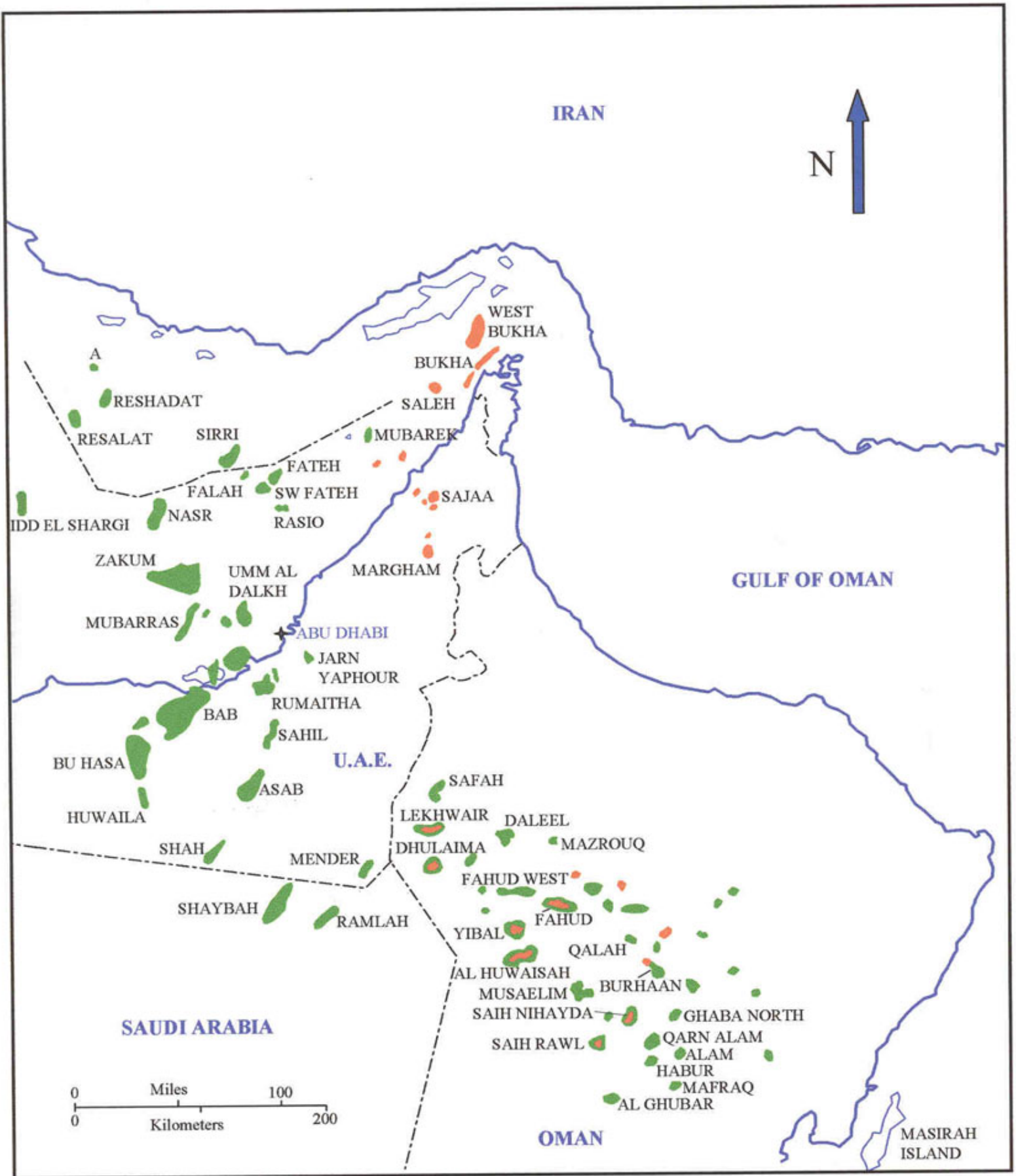




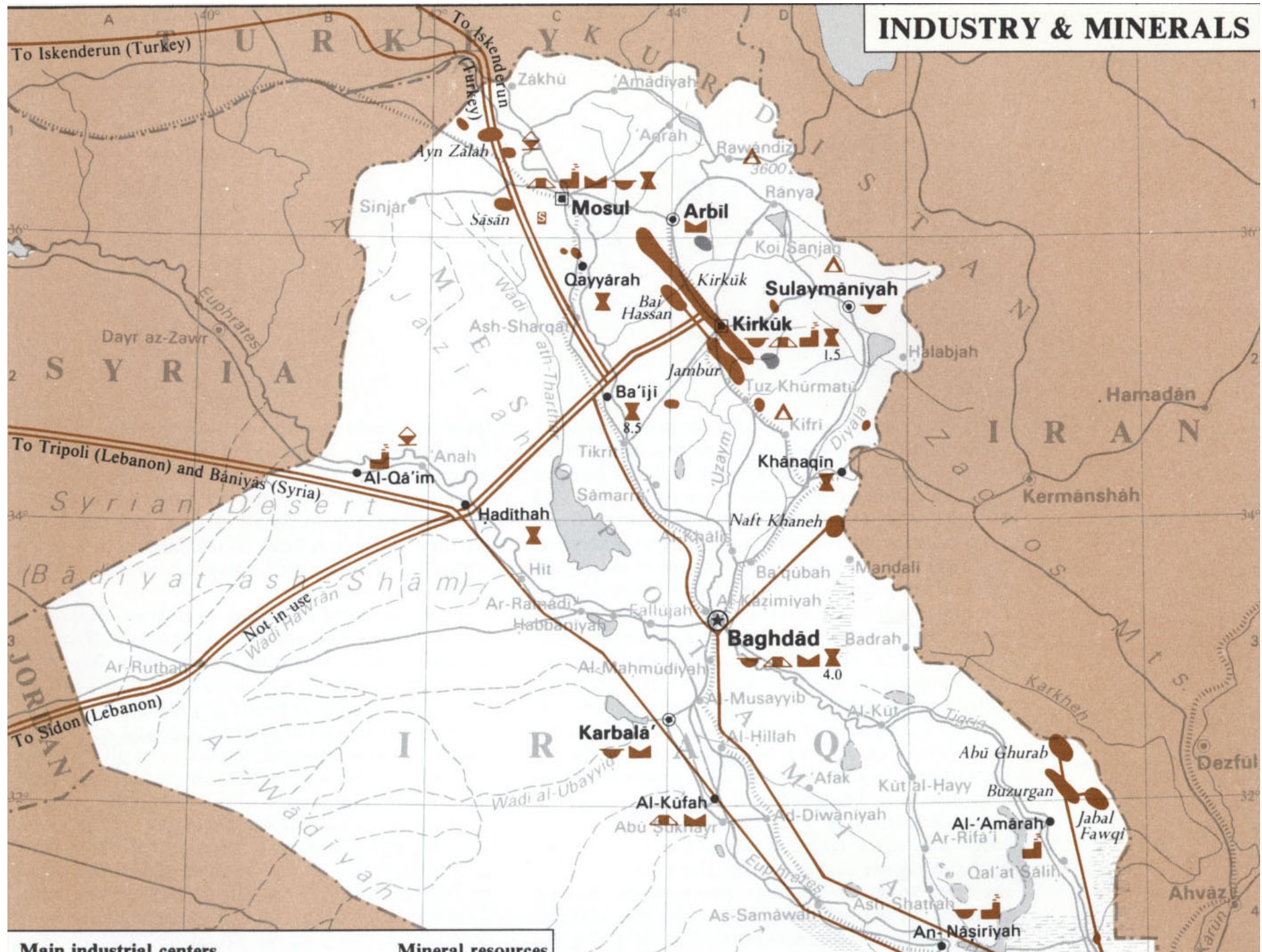


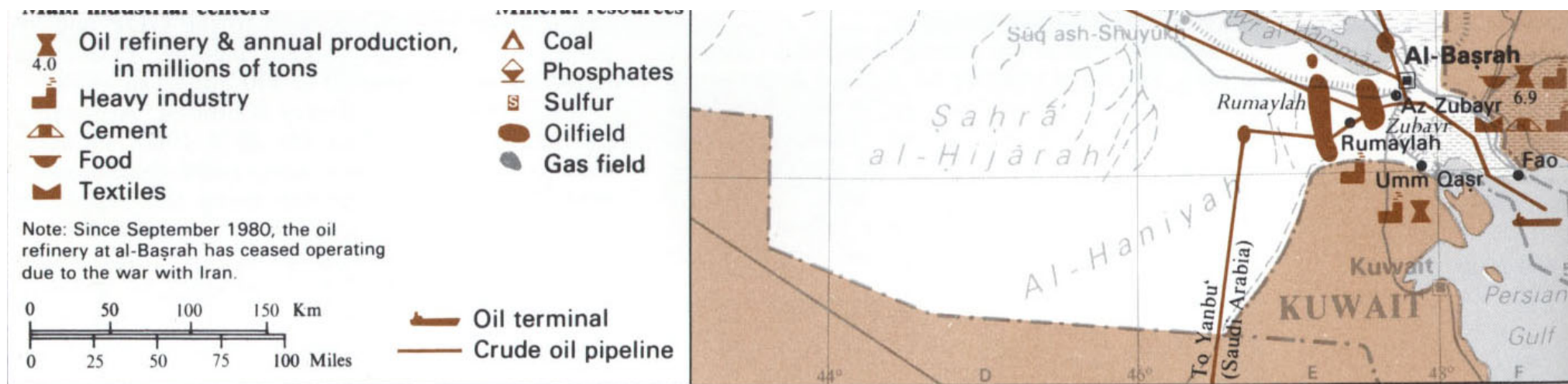






INDUSTRY & MINERALS

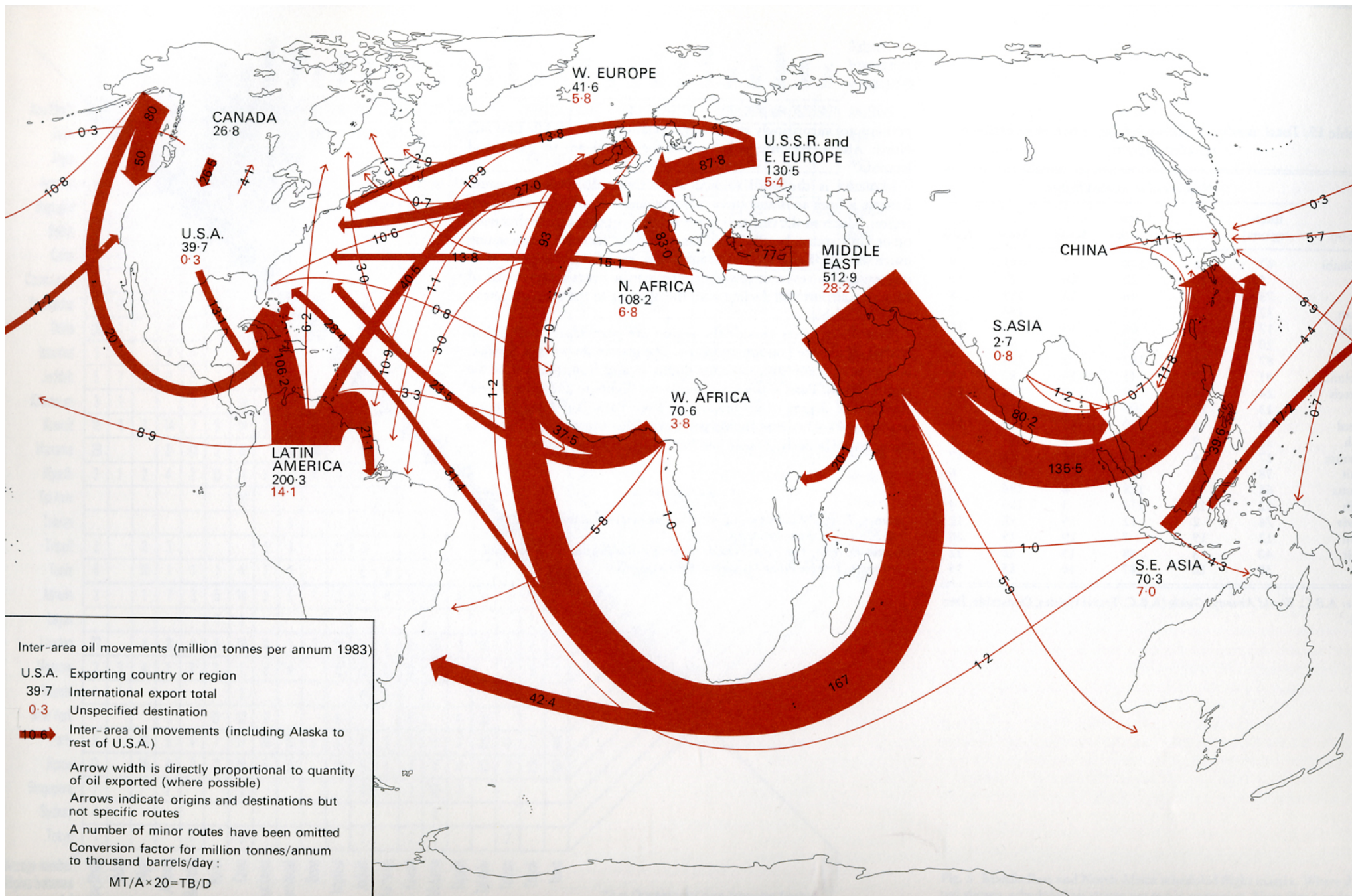


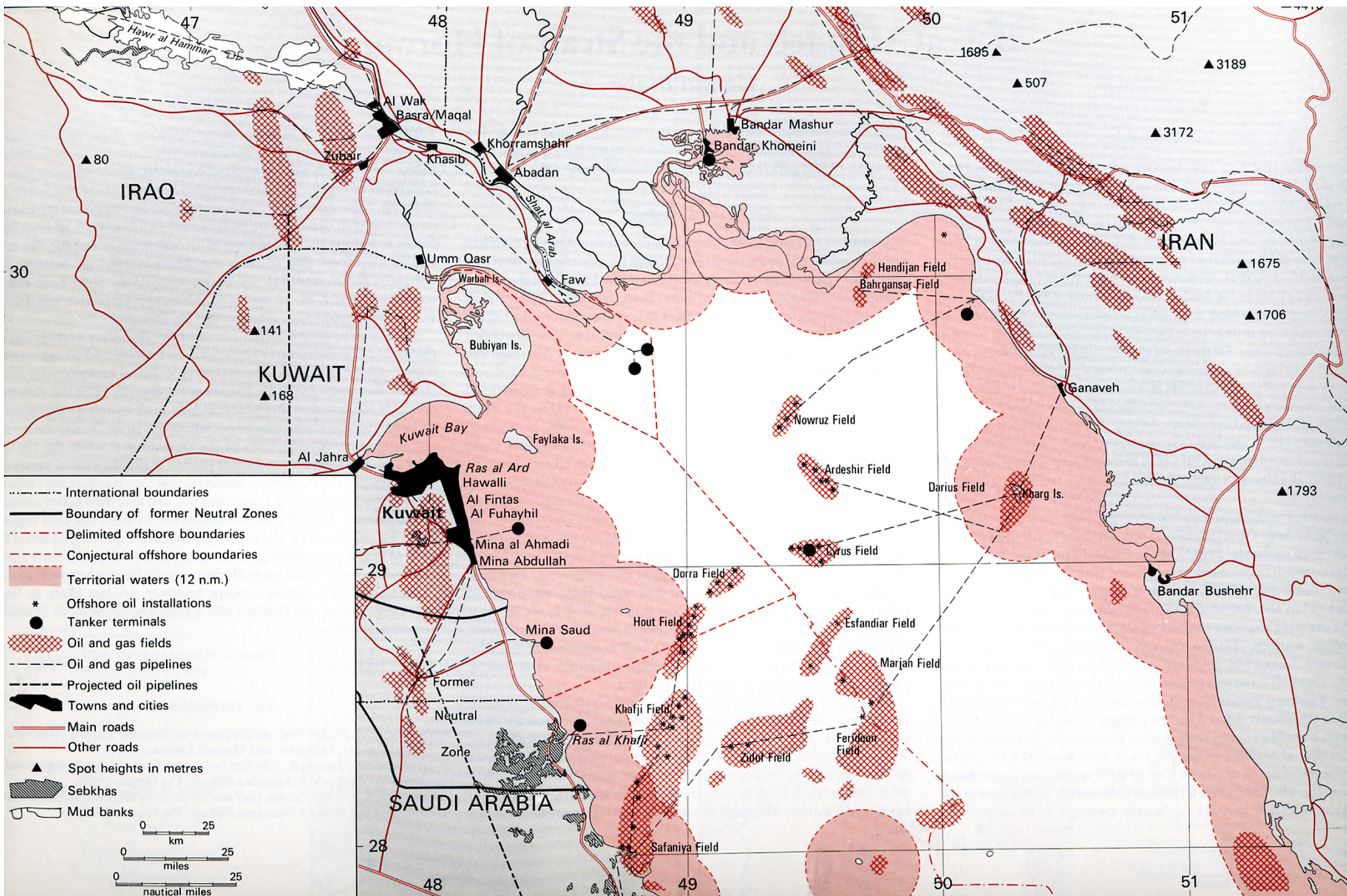


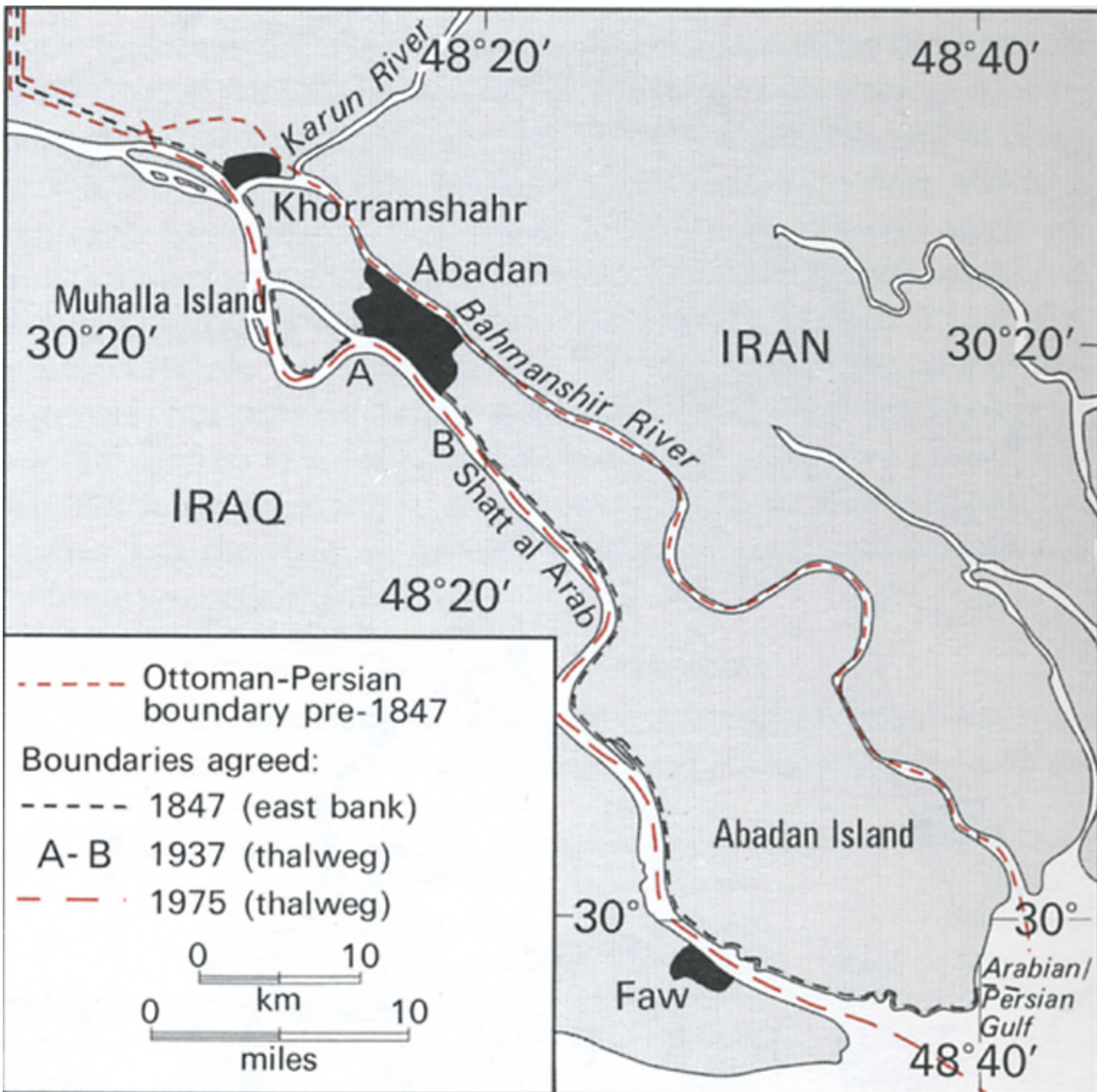


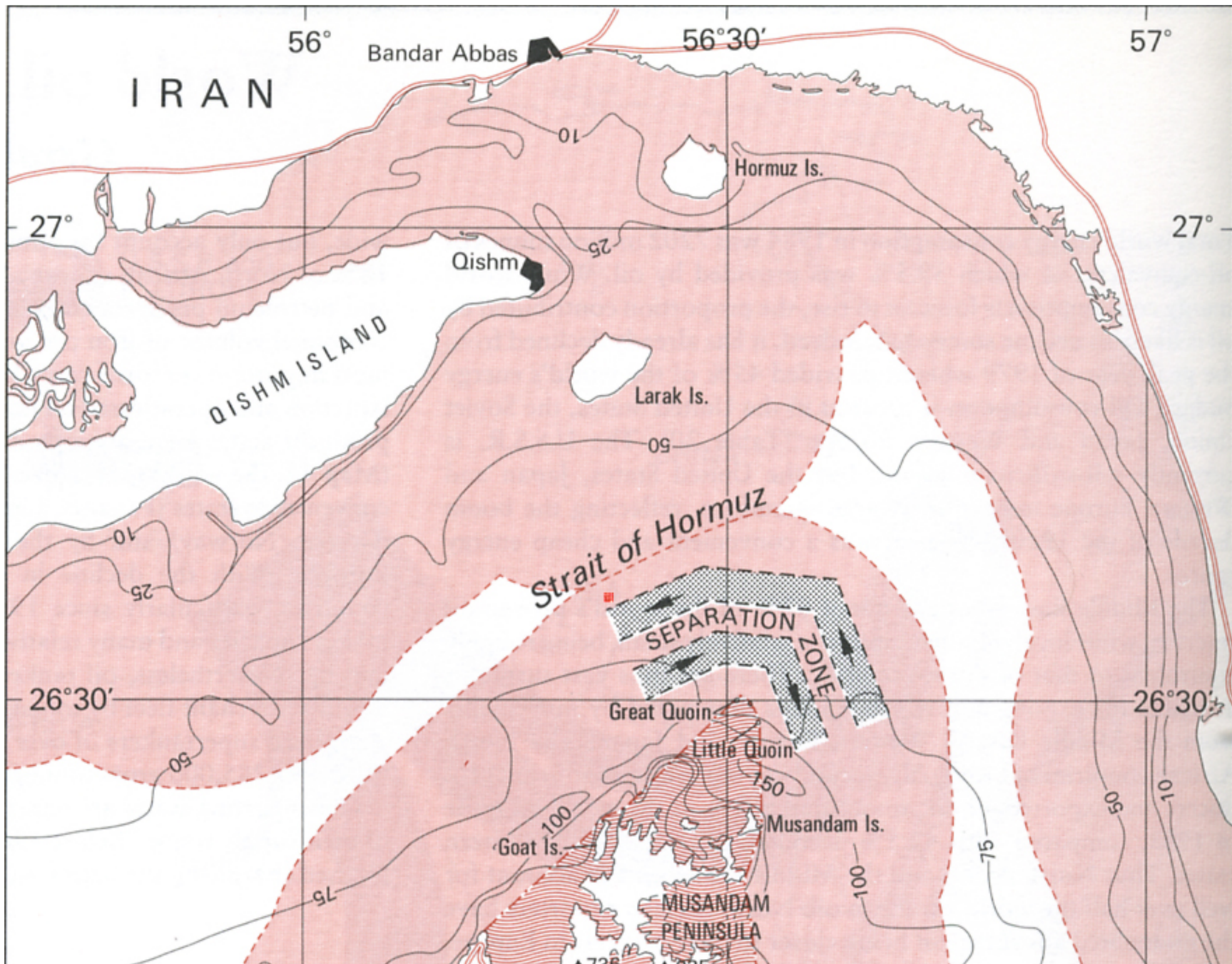


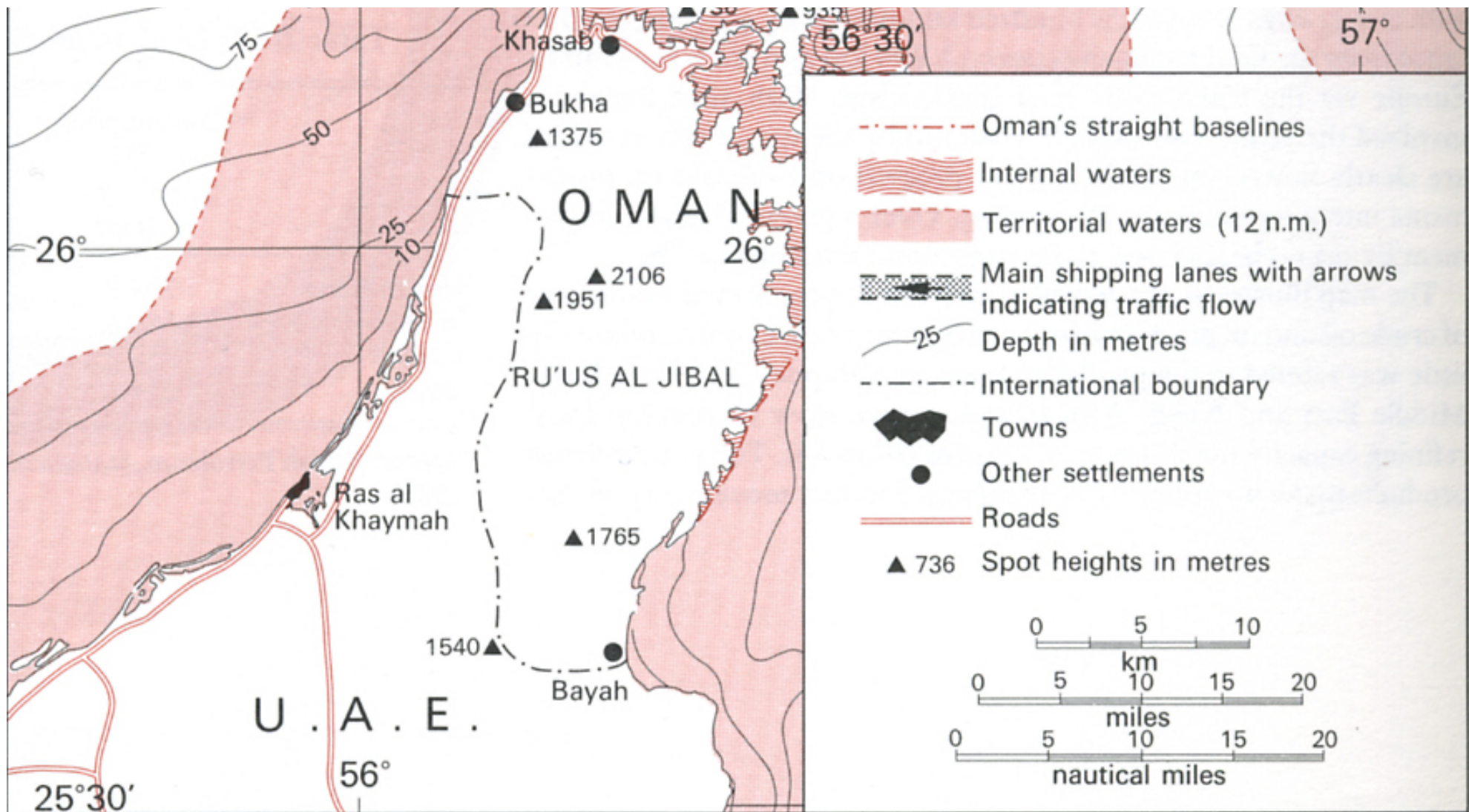


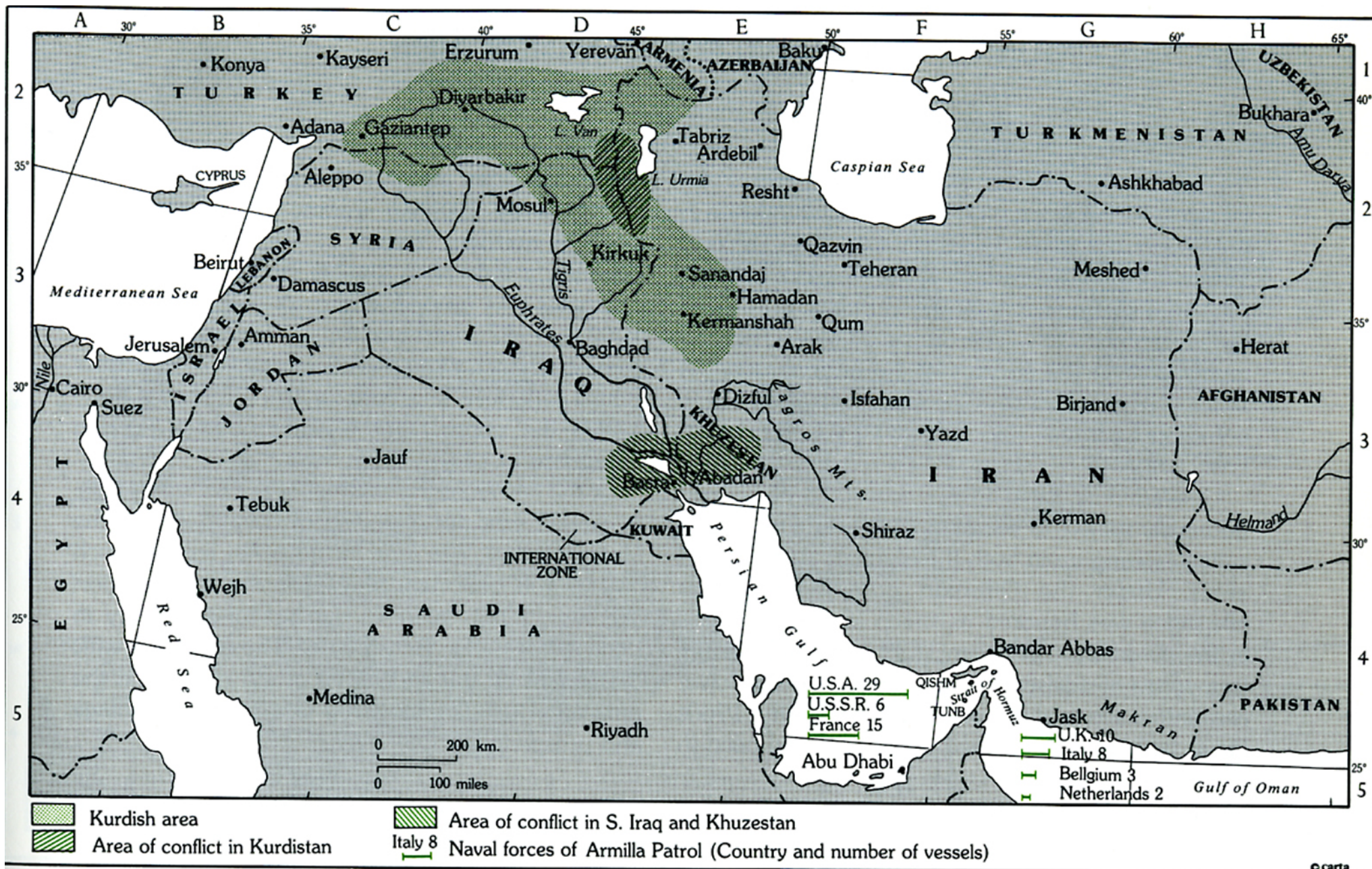






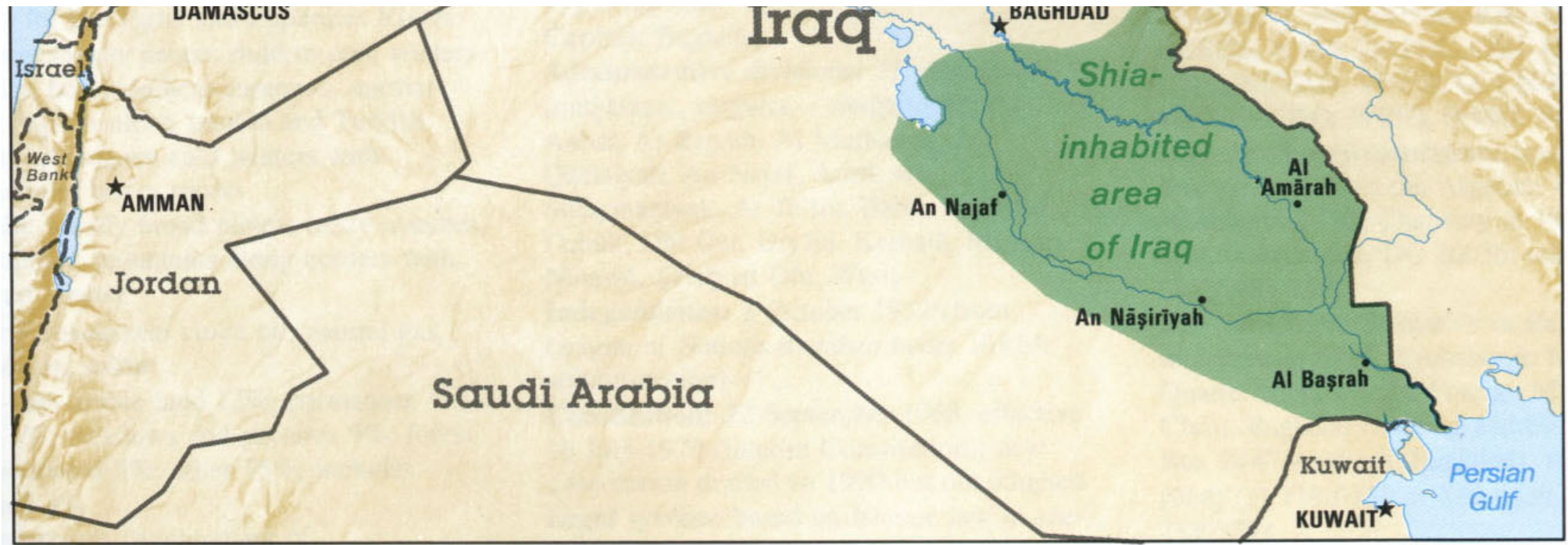






Dissident Areas

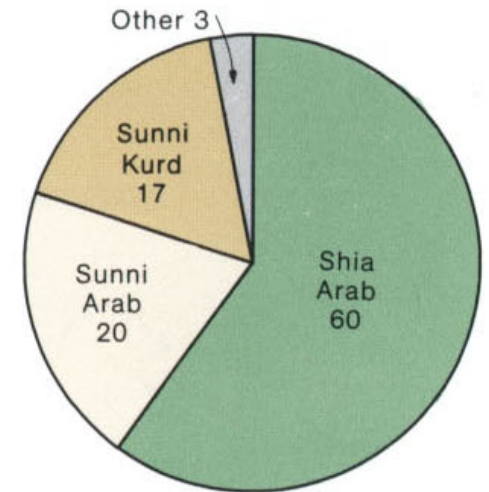


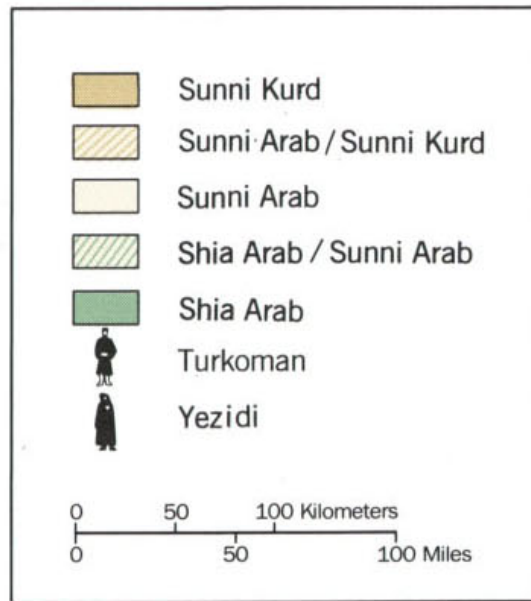


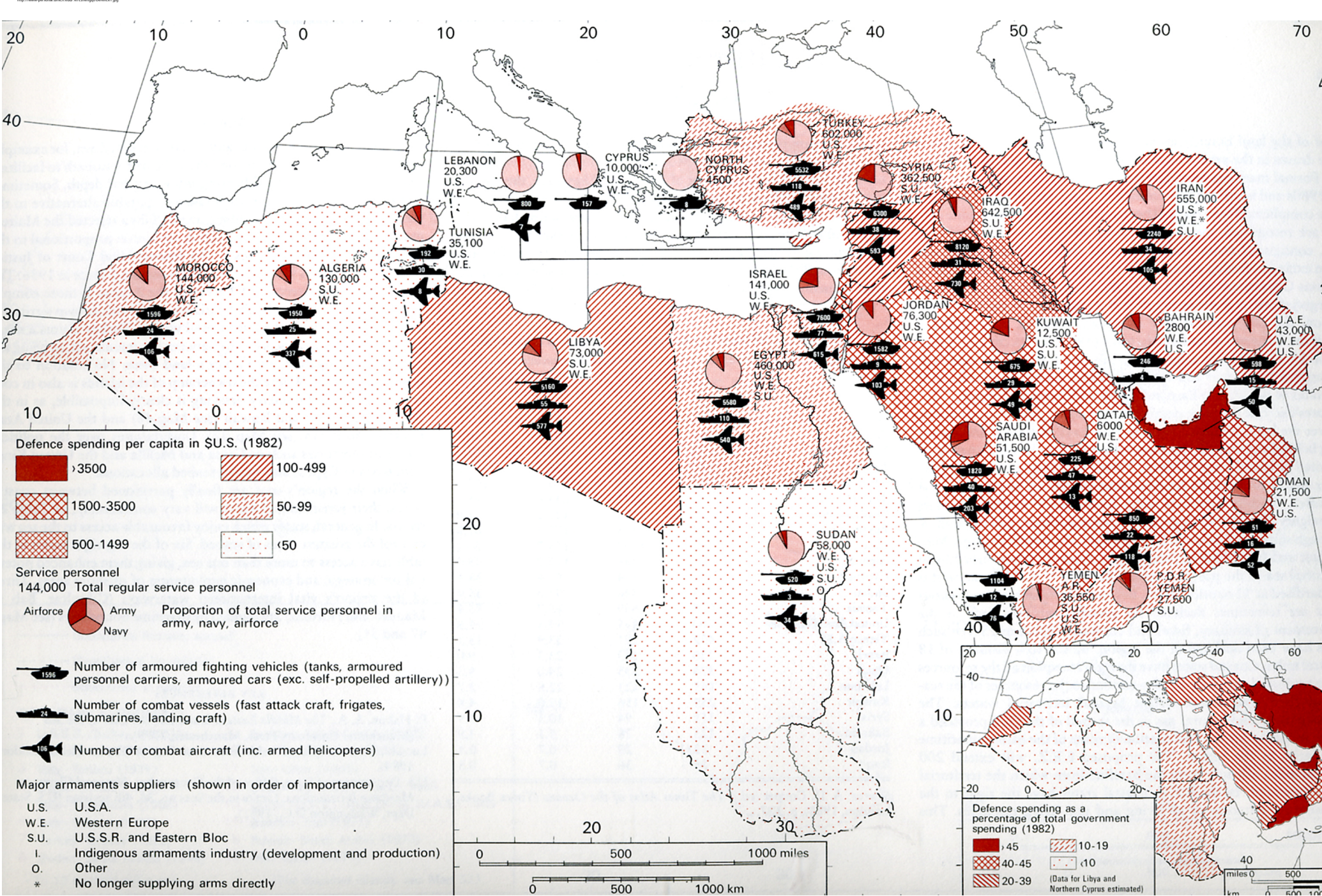
Ethnoreligious Groups



Ethnic and religious groups
by percent of population







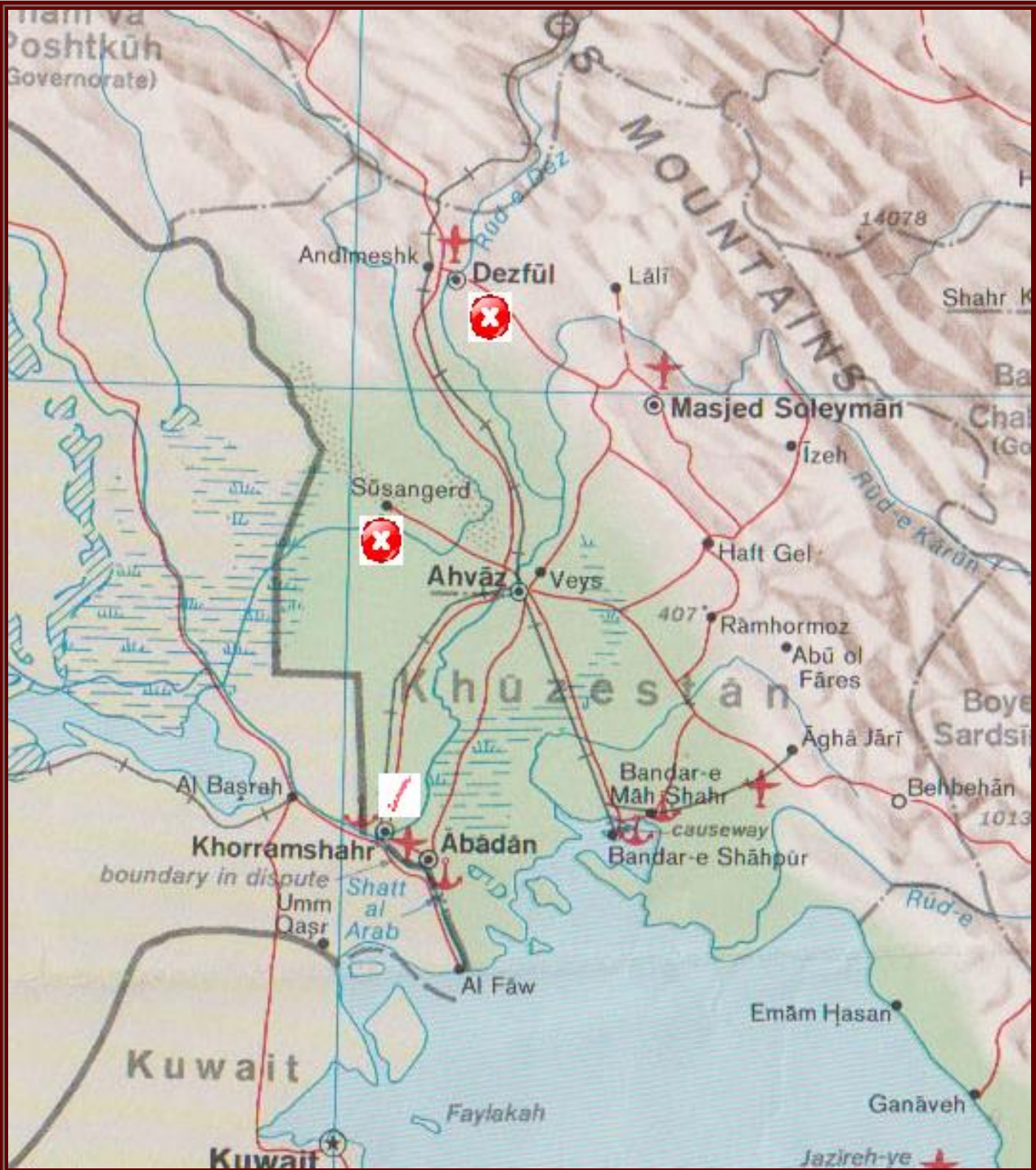
September, 1980

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<u>22</u>	Iraqi invades Iran at eight points on land, and bombs Iranian airfields, military installations and economic targets.
<u>23</u>	Iran retaliates with bombing of Iraqi military and economic targets.
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28	UN Security Council Resolution 479 urges cessation of hostilities. Iraq announces its readinesses to cease fire if Iran accepts its complete rights over the Shatt al-Arab. Tehran rejects the Security Council call.
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November, 1980

Iraqi forces enjoyed a few more victories, notably the capture of Khorramshahr, and occupied roughly 10,000 square miles of Iranian territory, but at a very heavy cost. They failed, however, to take other strategic targets such as Susangerd and Dezful during campaigns at the end of November.



May, 1985

By the the end of May 1985, Iran had retaken Abadan, Susangerd, Dezful, Shush, and Khorramshahr with the order from A to E shown in the map, and drove the Iraqis back to the international border.



Iran's military actions in 1982

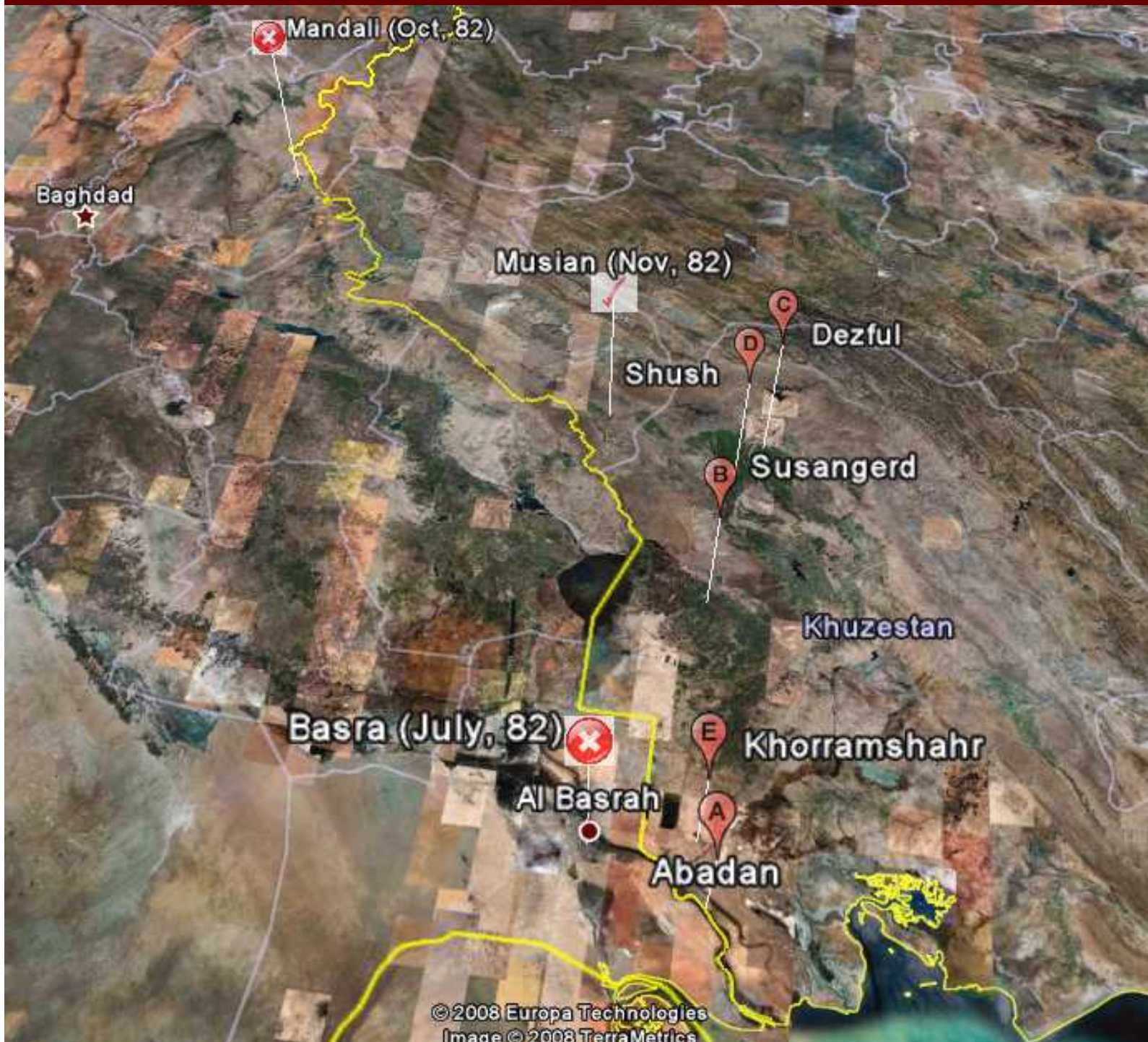
The first phrase: taking back invaded land masses before June
The second phrase: invading Iraq after June



successful action



unsuccessful action



Campaigns between Iran and Iraq in 1983

Red: Iran Blue: Iraq



Iraqi airforce



Iran's successful actions



Iran's unsuccessful actions



February, 1984

Pink color indicates the Tanker War.

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10	The Iraqi missiles fire at Dezful and the Iranian shell of Basra, Khanaqin and Mandali, thus starting a round of attacks on civilian targets.
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18	Iraq and Iran reach a UN-mediated agreement not to attack population centres.
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22	Tehran mounts a major offensive, codenamed Khaibar, in the Haur al-Hawizeh marshes.
23	
24	The Iranian attempt to march from Dehloran into Iraq to cut off the Basra-Baghdad highway fails.
25	Iraq claims to have struck seven Iranian naval targets.

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Iraq announces that the Kharg oil terminal is under siege, and afterwards repeatedly hits on the vessels trading with Iran.

March, 1984

Pink color indicates the Tanker War.

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16	By the end of the Khaibar offensive Iran has retained control of Iraq's oil-rich Majnoon Islands in the Haur al-Hawizeh marshland.
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21	UN experts conclude that chemical weapons were used against the Iranians.
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27	Iraq used the Super-Etendard-Exocet combination for the first time in its attacks on two small tankers in the southwest of Kharg.
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April, 1984

Pink color indicates the Tanker War.

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18	The Iraqi stricks a small Panamanian tanker near Kharg. It brings the Tanker War into a new phase.
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26	The Iraqi hits a Saudi-owned vessel carrying Iranian oil to France, thereby signalling their resolve to target all ships serving Iranian ports.

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Main Oil facilities Targets



: cutting off oil pipeline

Red: Iran's military actions

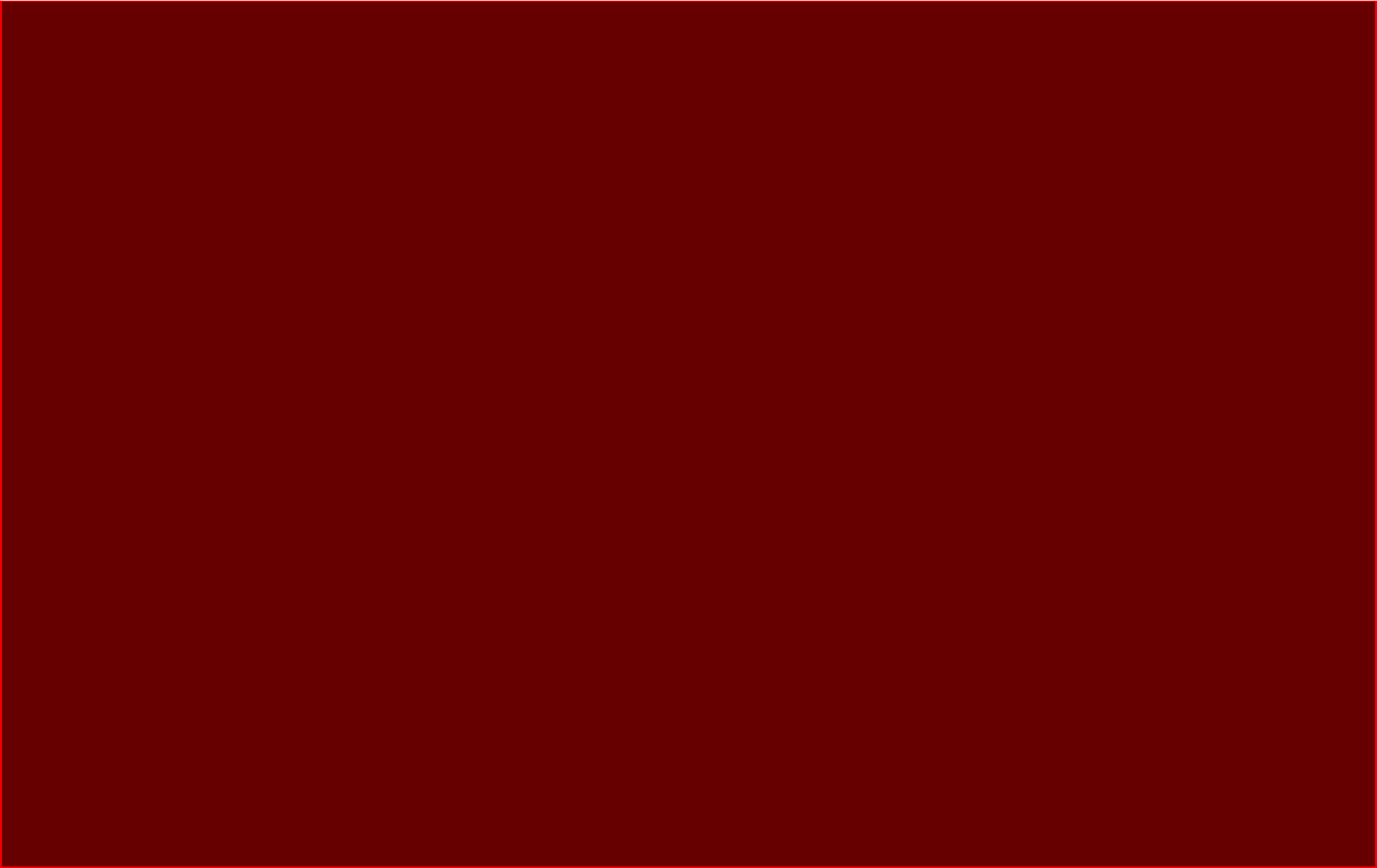
Blue: Iraq's military actions

1. attacks from both sides

Note: Iraq's attacks on oil facilities are more than the below map shows, for Iraq always keeps bombing areas repeatedly and deeply invades Iran as far as the west frontier of Iran. However, Iran with a lack of sufficient air forces is restricted to the oil facilities around the boundary.

2. Iran's attacks on Iraq

3. Iraq's attacks on Iran



May, 1984

Pink color indicates the Tanker War.

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13	The Iranian retaliate by hitting ships serving Saudi and Kuwait ports in the Lower Gulf.
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22	The naval units of <u>the Revolutionary Guards Corps</u> become operational.
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June, 1984

Pink color indicates the Tanker War.

1	The UN Security Council condemns attacks on ships trading with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and urges all states to respect free navigation in the Gulf.
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3	The Iraqi sinks a Turkish-registered tanker off Kharg.
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5	Saudi Arabia shoots down an Iranian jet fighter alledgedly violating its airspace.
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10	Tehran's planes hit a Kuwait supertaqnker in the Lower Gulf.
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12	A UN-sponsored ceasefire of attacks on population centres goes into effect with UN observers posted in Baghdad and Tehran to monitor breaches.
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15	When Iran proposes extending the limited truce to include Gulf shipping as well, Iraq insists that any such agreement must allow it to repair or replace its own oil export facilities in the Gulf. To this Iran makes no response.
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24	The Iraqi raid has damaged oil loading facilities on the western side of the island.
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July, 1984

Pink color indicates the Tanker War.

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5	Iran attacks a Liberian-registered tanker loaded with Saudi oil in the Lower Gulf.
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March, 1985

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5	Iraq's bombing of Ahvaz and Bushahr starts the "war of the cities".
6	The Iranian shells Basra. The Iraqi carries out air attacks on various Iranian cities and towns, including Isfahan.
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11	Iran retaliates with an air raid on a Baghdad suburb. Iran mounts the offensive, codenamed Badr, in the Haur al-Hawizeh marshland to seize the Basra-Baghdad road.
12	Iraq hits 16 cities and towns of Iran, and gives one week's notice of treating Iranian airspaces as a "war zone", which implies that civilian aircraft may be shot down.
13	
14	Iran hits Kirkuk with a surface-to-surface missile.
15	Iraqi bombs Tehran. Iran's missiles hit Baghdad.
16	
17	An Iranian brigade crosses the river and captures the Basra-Baghdad highway.
18	Tehran claims that its forces have controlled all of the Haur al-Hawizeh marshes south of the Iraqi town of Amara.
19	The Iraqis rallies, using Uzayr in the north and Qurna in the south as two points of a pincer.
20	The Iranian forces are forced to retreat to the Haur al-Hawizeh marshes.
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31	Tehran reports that Iraqi raids has killed 1450 civilians and injured more than 4000.

April, 1985

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6	Both sides agreed to stop attacking each other's urban centers.
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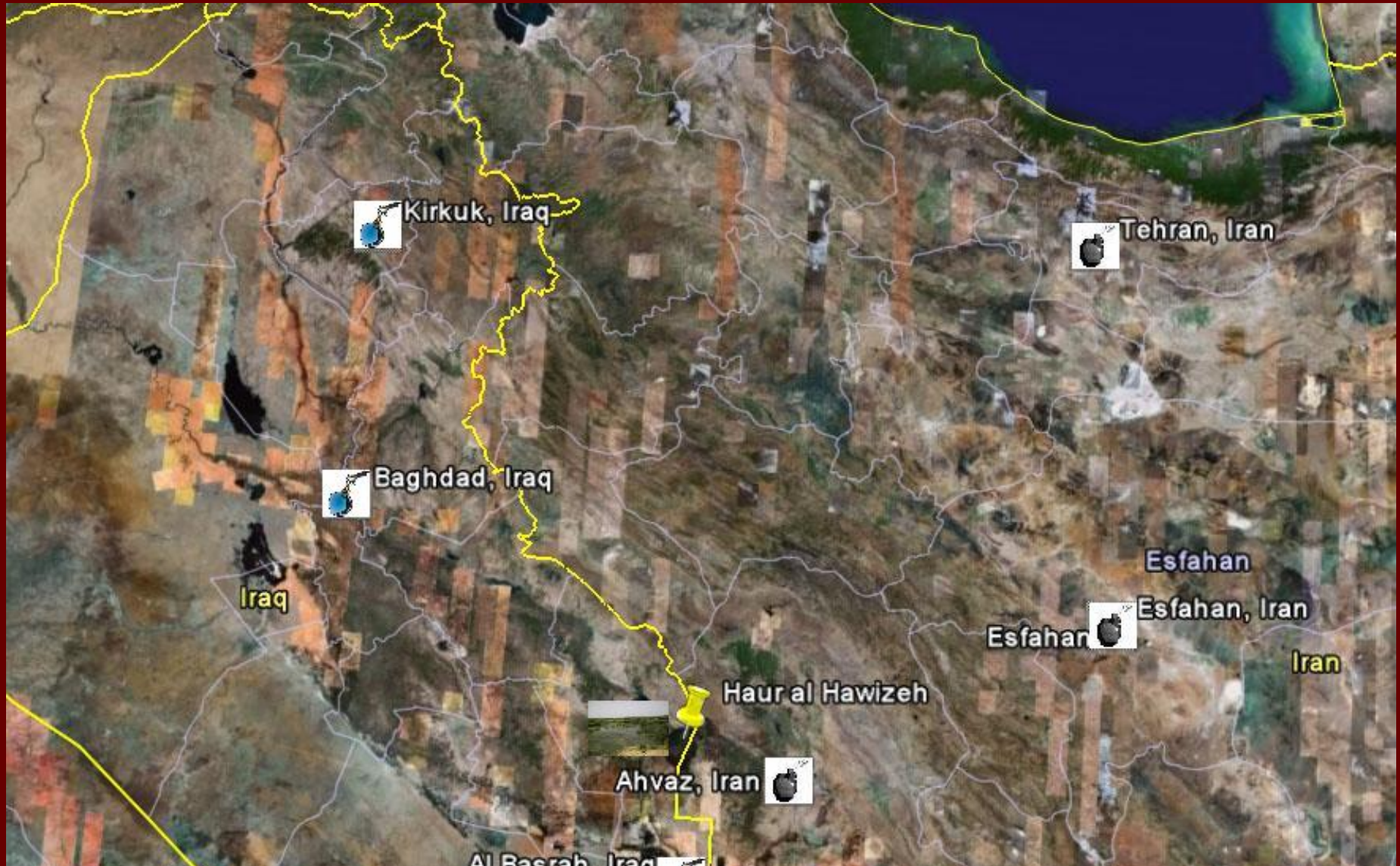
The War of the Cities (March 5, 1985 to mid-June) The Iranian Badr Offensive (March 11 to 20, 1985)

March, 1985

April, 1985

May, 1985

June, 1985





Generals in Iraq

In May 1985, Saddam Hussein awarded the medal of valour to each of the 14 members of the military high command. Prominent among those who came to the fore were Major-General Hisham Sabah Fakhri and Major-General Mahir Abdul Rashid.

Fakhri, the commander of the Fourth Corps, who was a native of Mosul, played a crucial role in countering the Iranian offensive in February 1983 and boosting the severely damaged Iraqi morale. About in 1986, he was appointed deputy chief of staff in charge of operations, a key military position.

Abdul Rashid, a relative of Saddam Hussein, distinguished himself in 1983 as the commander of the First Corps posted in the north. Soon after his transfer to the Third Corps in the Basra region in January 1984, he had to face an Iranian offensive. His star rose when he succeeded in blunting that thrust too.

The War of the Cities

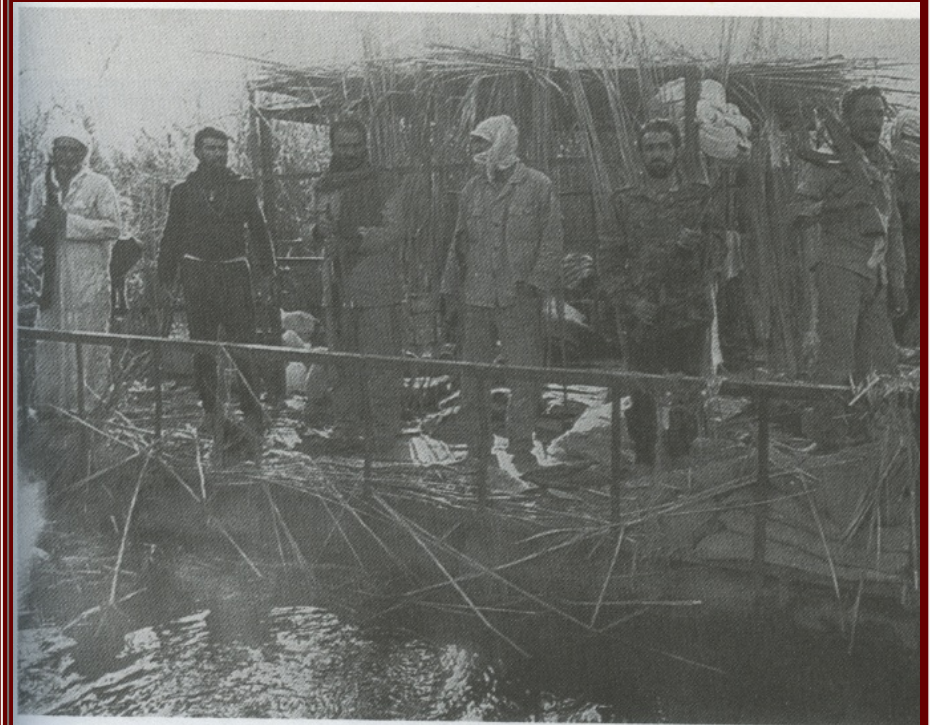
The result of this war was beyond the expectation of Iraq. Major-General Thabit Sultan, commander of the Iraqi Fourth Corps, articulated the reason for the Iraqi resumption of the "war of the cities". "We want to bring the Iranian people in to the front lines of the war," he explained. "We hope this will encourage the Iranian people to rebel against their government and bring the war to an end." This hope was unrealized, since the Islamic regime in Tehran successfully presented the Iraqi air strikes as further evidence of Saddam Hussein's inhumanity. During a seven-week period in March-April and May-June 1985, Iraqi planes hit Tehran 43 times. In contrast, 12 Iranian surface-to-surface missiles landed in Baghdad. Once the populations of these capitals got over the initial shock of the bombs or missiles, they found that the economic damage caused by them was limited and bearable. As such, Iraq's launching of the "war of the cities" did not bring it any tangible military or psychological benefit.

The Iranian Badr offensive



Iranian forces mounting an attack in the Haur al-Hawizeh marshes; February 1984.

Iranian soldiers and dissident Iraqi fighters guard a position in the Huar al-Hawizeh marshes; October 1985.





A border post in the Haur al-Hawizeh marshes.

Tehran committed over 60,000 soldiers and revolutionary guards to capture the lower reaches of the Tigris, cross the river, and serve the nearby Basra-Baghdad highway running parallel to the western bank. Over the past several months the Iranian had, through aggressive patrolling in small speedboats using narrow waterways flanked by tall reeds, flushed out the Iraqis from the marshes and pushed them back to fixed positions on dry land.

Once the offensive got going the swampy conditions again helped the Iranian to offset the Iraqi advantage in tanks as they negotiated the marshes in boats and along the narrow strips of dry land in the area. Once they reached the dry plain they waited to build up their forces before pushing 4 miles, through huge tracts of barbed wire and across minefields, to the Tigris under heavy fire from the Iraqi positions.

Both sides suffered heavy casualties, with some 20,000 Iranians and 14,000 Iraqi dead. However, the Badr offensive convinced Tehran that by employing certain tactics efficiently it could overcome Baghdad's superiority in military hardware. It showed the Iranian planners a good way to defeat the Iraqi armies who had numerous armour, artillery and warplanes, that is attacking them at night in marshes or in mountainous terrain. They also stressed the importance of the surprise element in their planning. Though the Badr offensive failed to yield the prized Basra-Baghdad highway to the Iranian, its damage to the Iraqi war machine was deemed satisfactory in Tehran.

(Hiro, Dilip, ed. 1991. *The longest war: The Iran-Iraq military conflict*. New York; London: Routledge.)

May, 1985

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18	Saudi foreign minister, Prince Saud al-Faisal, visits Tehran. He fails to arrange a ceasefire in the Gulf War during the forthcoming month of Ramadan.
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25	A suicide bomber driving a car packed with explosives makes an unsuccessful attempt to assassinate Shaikh Sabah al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti ruler. Claiming that the action was directed by Iran, Saddam Hussein resumes air raids on Tehran, and intensifies attacks on ships in the Gulf.
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30	Iraq strikes on Kharg.
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June, 1985

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4	Iraq strikes on Kharg.
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14	A pro-government rally of between one and five million people is held in Tehran. Baghdad announces a two-week suspension of aerial attacks on urban centers to pressure their leaders into accepting peace, but it did not resume it later.
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July, 1988

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5	Iran lodges a complaint with the UN Security Council against the US for shooting down its civilian aircraft.
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9	Baghdad claims to have regained 23 mountain peaks in the area.
10	Baghdad announces the recapture of 14 mountain peaks in the Panjwin district.
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12	Iraq succeeds in expelling the Iranians from the occupied Iraqi territory in the Musian border region in the south-central sector, and drives 30 miles into Iran and captures Dehloran.
13	
14	A conclave of top political, military and theological leaders of Iran at the presidential residence in Tehran discusses the war.
15	A meeting of the cabinet endorses the decision of unconditionally accepting the Security Council Resolution 598 .
16	Iraq withdraws to the International border from Dehloran. The Assembly of Experts formally adopts a resolution to recommend the ceasefire to Khomeini.
17	Saddam Hussein delivers a speech to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Baathist seizure of power. He repeats his five-point peace plan . Khomeini gives his consent in writing. Khamanei sends a letter to the UN secretary-general with the acceptance of the Security Council Resolution 598.
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20	The UN Security Council expressed regret about the shooted civilian aircraft by the US and welcomed the International Civil Aviation Organization's decision to investigate the incident. Khomeini delivers a 90-minute-long statement on Tehran Radio about the ceasefire decision. Iraqi foreign minister writes a letter to the UN secretary-general and requires <u>three more conditions</u> .
21	Iraq's ambassador in the UN declares that "all issues" must first be settled through direct negotiations before ceasefire could come into effect.
22	The Iraqi launch chemical attacks on Qasr--e Shirin and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab in the central sector, and penetrate 40 miles into south Iran and conquer Ahvaz. But the Iranian blunt their attacks in the Kurdish north and repel them in the Shalamche area.
23	Khomeini urges all able-bodied mento volunteer for the fronts. Tens of thousands of civil servants, students and clerics rush to the fronts.
24	
25	Iran's forces recover the lost land in Ahvaz.
26	An anti-Khomeini Army of Iran, NLA, seizes Karand and Islamabad-d Gharb on the Baghdad-Tehran highway with the assistance of Iraq.
27	The Iranians cut off the NLA's supply lines and counterattack.
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29	NLA announces a volunterary withdrawal from Islamabad-e Gharb and Karad.
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Saddam Hussein's five-point peace plan:

1. a ceasefire and returen to the international frontier;
2. exchange of prisoners of war;
3. the signing og a peace treaty and a non-aggression pact;
4. a mutual agreement not to meddle in each other's domestic affairs;
5. a commitment by both parties to strive for stability and security in the region

Iraq's three more condition in the letter to the UN secretary-general:

1. The UN should clear the Shatt al-Arab and prepare it for navigation by Iraq and Iran;
2. Iraq's right to navigate in the Gulf and the Hormuz Strait should be guaranteed;
3. In case of failure by Tehran and Baghdad to conclude a comprehensive peace settlement,

the UN should play an active role in the restoration of direct official talks.

August, 1988

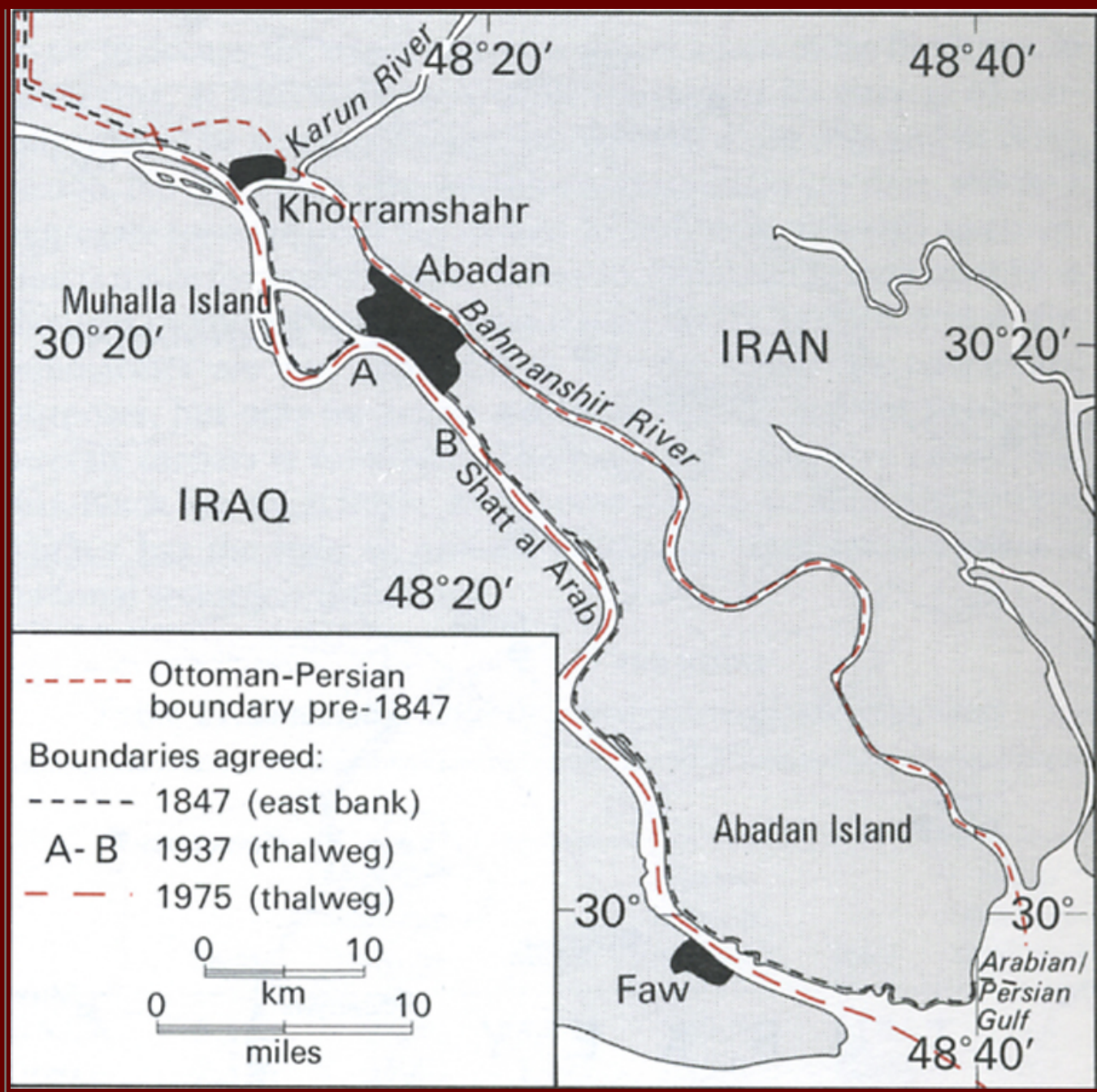
1	The Iraqi leader's military ploy has failed.
2	The peace process at the UN is stalled by Iraq's insistence that direct negotiations with Iran must precede ceasefire.
3	The Security Council's permanent members, and the Saudi and other Arab Gulf rulers advise Saddam Hussein to join the peace process immediately.
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6	Saddam Hussein withdraws his demand for direct negotiation with Iran before ceasefire.
7	
8	The Security Council unanimously approves the implementation details of Resolution 598.
9	Saddam Hussein declares a three-day holiday to celebrate "this great victory".
10	More than a million Iranian people march in Tehran in support of Khomeini's acceptance of the ceasefire.
11	
12	Khamanei in Friday prayer addresses that Iran has won a moral victory by refusing to abandon its principles.
13	
14	A pro-government rally of between one and five million people is held in Tehran. Baghdad announces a two-week suspension of aerial attacks on urban centers to pressure their leaders into accepting peace, but it did not resume it later.
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20	<u>A formal truce happens at 3:00.</u>
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The Opening of the War

On 22 September 1980, Iraqi forces bombed Iranian airfields and invaded Iran at several points along its sparsely defended border, from Kurdistan in the north to Khuzistan in the south. This was the opening salvo in a bitter war that would last for almost 8 years and that would claim hundreds of thousands of lives and cost tens of billions of dollars.

Ostensibly, the war was over Iraqi claims that Iran had violated some provisions of the [1975 Algiers Accord](#), which had recognized the *thalweg* (main navigation channel) of the Shatt al-Arab waterway as the border between the two countries. Iraq had resented this agreement, which it had accepted as the price for getting Mohammad Reza Shah to end his support for Kurdish rebels in Iraq, and started claiming for its revision shortly after the revolution (October 1979). On 17 September, Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi president, had declared the agreement abrogated in view of continued Iranian interference in Iraqi affairs.



As early as 1847, even earlier than that, the boundary between Iran and Iraq caused continued conflicts, although both sides tried to reach an agreement on treaties. The implication that the war was an international dispute involving demarcation of borders, however, gives it an aura of legitimacy it hardly deserves. The boundary question was at best camouflage for other, much deeper, problems.

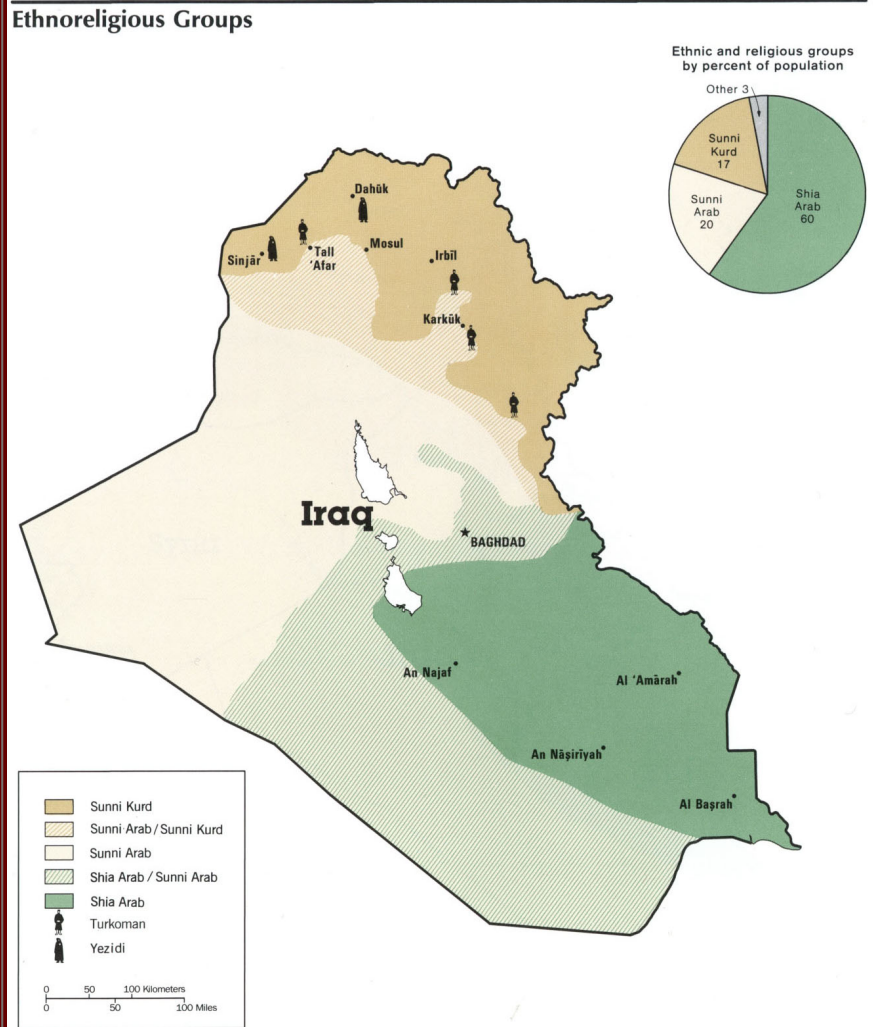
September 23, 1980

The Iraqis thought that Iran would crumble or that they could achieve some minor but quick and cheap victory, however, they badly miscalculated. In the first days of the war, Iraqi forces captured several Iranian cities and brought others under siege or artillery barrage, but the Iranian navy and air forces struck back at targets in Iraq with surprising success. Volunteers from all over the country rushed to help on the front; and the purge of the Iranian military was halted.



Saddam Hussein was revolted against by different groups, including the Kurds in Iraq and Arabs in Khuzestan.

As can be seen from the map on the right, in the southeastern Iraq, adjacent areas of Khuzistan, dominated Shia Arabs, who were inclined to follow directions from Khomeini, Iran's Shia leader, instead of Saddam Hussein, a secular dictator.



In addition, the Kurds were oppressed in Iraq for a long time, and revolted against the Iraqi government constantly with the support from Iran. Obviously, the war between Iran and Iraq was a good opportunity to fight for their independence, so they were also on the side of Iran.



The end of the war

The border dispute was little affected by the war. However, the war came at a great cost for both sides in lives and economic damage.

It is said that one and half millions Iranian and Iraqi soldiers and civilians died in the war with more wounded and injured. Clawson and Rubin in their 2005 book *Eternal Iran*, indicate that the conflict cost Iran some 450,000-730,000 dead and another 600,00-1,200,000 wounded; Iraq suffered 150,000-400,000 dead and 400,000-700,000 wounded.

It's nearly impossible to know the exact number of casualties rather than a rough estimate. One of the reasons is that all of the statistic information was provided by the two countries, who changed statistic data according to their political needs, sometimes to enlarge it, and sometimes to minimize it. In addition, a large number of people who died from the war may not taken into account. For instance, scholars reveals that much more Iraqi people died from drinking dirty water, than ones killed by bombs; as a highly urbanized country, the Iraqis had great difficulty with clean water after the electricity was cut off by Iranians.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, excluding weapons imports, at current prices Iran spent between \$74 and \$91 billion to conduct the war, and Iraq between \$94 and \$112 billion. Their aggregate military imports bill amounted to \$53.2 billion, divided into \$41.94 billion for Baghdad, and \$11.26 billion for Tehran. An estimate by Kamran Mofid puts the aggregate direct and indirect cost of war too Tehran at \$627 billion, and to Baghdad at \$561 billion.

Video:

[How war ended in Iran Iraq war part 1](#)

[How war ended in Iran Iraq war part 2](#)

[IRIAF memories from the Iran-Iraq war.](#)