MCIA-2630-IRQ-003-04

Instructions

Cultural Intelligence

Quickly learn operationally significant aspects

Important information on customs, gestures, clothing, and holidays.

Reference guide to religious identity, social structure, and cultural history.

Visual Language Survival Guide

Graphics allow instant two-way communication without language training.

Language sections contain mission-relevant Iraqi Arabic.

Speak a phrase or point to it.

Response is communicated through pictures.

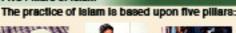
For additional information see MCIA's CD-ROM "Cultural Intelligence For Military Operations: Iraq'

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Religion



SZAKAT

Applotance to



@ SALAT

Pray five

timeo a day.

Purity







Pilgrimage to Mecca in

Feeting: Remedenmonth of facting

the needy. from ounrice to ouncet. Saudi Arabia.

Muslims often fly colored flags to observe various holidays or dates of personal significance.

Islam and is particularly

meaningful to the Shia.

Each color carries a specific meaning. Green is the color of

Islamic Religious Terms

mic Flag Meanings

Allah to the

one true God.

KORAN: Islamic Holy Book, given by Allah to the Prophet Mohammad.

MOSQUE: Muslim house of worship

SUNNI and SHIA: Two main branches of Islam.

SHIA: Form majority of Muslims in Iraq, but less than 10% globally.

SUNNI: Call their religious leaders imams, but to Shia, the imam is a supreme religious leader descended from Mohammad.

SHARIA: Muslim law.

FATWA: An order from a Muslim religious leader.

WAHABBIS: Puritanical Muslims from the Hanball school of Sunni Islam. Never shave their beards.

MADRASSAH: Islamic educational system.

MULLAH: Local religious leader.

Ethnic Groups

Kurd

Arabs: 18.5 Million





Descended from nomadic Bedouin tribes. Culture closely intertwined with Islam.

65% Shia Muslim / 35% Sunni Muslim.

Most are members of one of Iraq's 150 tribes.

Kurds: 5 Million

Ethnically distinct from Arabs, Turks, and Persians (Iranians). "Kurd" orginally used to denote non-Arab nomads.

Speak Kurdish, a language distinct from Arabic and Turkish; similar to Persian. Most are Sunni Muslim. Sufi orders are prevalent and influential.

Assyrians/Chaldeans: 800,000



Claim to be heirs to the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia.

Live in urban areas and throughout northern Iraq. Ethno-Religious Groups



Turkoman: 500,000

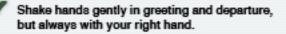
Ethnically related to Turks and Azerls. 66% are Sunni Muslims and 33% Shia Muslims. Primary language is Turkish. Most are also fluent in Arabic.

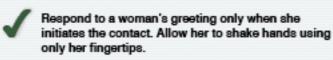
Most live in Irag's northern cities.

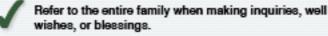


Do This

In General







Be patient; the Iraqi approach to time is slow and

In Iragi Homes

Try all food offered to you, even if in small portions. Feel free to ask about the cuisine or its preparation.

Appear relaxed and friendly; social interaction is critical in building trust.

As A Guest

Be gracious; do not appear anxious to leave.

Offer profuse thanks to host and wish his family

Arrive on time for meetings, but expect casual conversation and a gradual approach to a business discussion

Personal Space

Admitting "I Don't Know" is shameful for an Iraqi.

Constructive criticism can be taken as an insult.

Cultural Customs

Family is the center of honor, loyalty, and reputation.

should be given to female relatives.

Iragis do not share an American concept of 'personal space'

In public situations, and in private meetings or conversation

It is considered offensive to step or lean away from

should not stand close to , stare at, or touch a women.

Socialization and Trust

firmly nor too meekly.

Women are an exception to this rule. One

Men are always the head of the family. No direct attention

When conducting business, it is customary to first shake the

Allocate plenty of time for refreshments before attempting to

engage an Iraqi in business conversation. It is important to

hand of all males present, taking care to grip neither too

Women will often wear head scarves as a show of respect, even if wearing Western clothing. Women are rarely without a male relative or friend for



Mecca.

Has not made the

hajj, or pilgrimage to

FEMALE DRESS



Arab women often wear Western dress with a shawl or head scarf.

Black or Grey Checked Red and White Checked

Clothes / Gestures

From a country with

Presidential rule (Le.

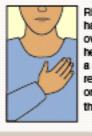
Libya or Egypt) and

has made the hall.

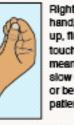
Devout or conservative women wear a hejab, a full head covering, and an abaya, a body covering made of dark colors.

Western dress is common in urban areas, but traditional dress is still prevalent in rural iraq.

GESTURES



hand heart la a sign of respect



Social Structure





From a country with a

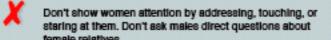
Arabia or Jordan) and

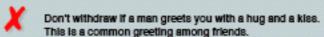
monarch (Le. Saudia

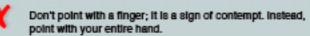
has made the hall.

Don't Do This

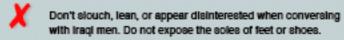
Don't use your left hand for contact with others, eating, or gestures. It is considered unclean.







Don't ask a single opinion on an issue, as iraqis often first reply with the answer they think you want to hear, rather than an honest response



Don't back away from an Iraql during conversation. Close personal Interaction is customary and distance is considered rude

Don't offer a Muslim food or drink or consume either publicly during Ramadan. Never offer a Muslim alcohol or pork.

Don't engage in religious discussions.

Don't make the "OK" or "thumbs up" signs; they are considered obscene.

Don't praise an Iraqi's possessions too much. He may give them to you and expect something of equal value in return.

Cultural Attitudes

first establish respect and trust.

Arabo view Kurdo as separatists within iraq and are wary of their

Arabo view the Chriotian Accyrlance and Chaldeano ac Iraqio, but recent lolamic extremiom has oparked come hooffifty towards them.

Arabo look down upon the Turkoman because they generally view

Turkioh culture ao inferior. Arabo view Iranian Perolano negatively and fear the hiotorically ofrong political and cultural influence of Perola.

Shia and Sunni Arab ■ Tengion exists between Shia and Sunni Arabo over access to political and economic power.

Sunnio blame Shis for undermining the mythical unity of lolam and they view them so less loyal to Iraq

Shia blame Sunnio for marginalizing the Shia majority and recent Sunni attempts to question their loyalty to Iraq.

Kurds

Kurdo are openly hootile toward Iraqi Arabo and seek to assert their political and cultural independence.

Kurdo are distructful of the Turkoman, so they have competing claims over Kirkui Kurdo do not interact much with Accyriano and Chaldeano.

Accordance experienced persecution by both Kurdo and Arabo

Accyriano recognize their minority otatuo ao a religiouo and ethnic gr

According believe they have much in common with the Chaldeang. Including ethnic and Christian religious heritage.

M Chaldeans

■ Chaldeano rejoined the Catholic Church in the 16th century and do not believe that they are cimilar to Apovrlano.

Ao a religious and ethnic minority, the Chaldeans distruct both Kurdish and Arab Intentions.

They have peaceful relations with Turkoman.

(Turkoman

■ Turkoman view themoeiveo as a marginalized repressed minority and oeek greater influence in Irag. Turkoman fear Kurdo, and there has been a long history of

conflict between the two groups.

Turkoman identify closely with Turkey and the Ottoman period of Iraql history.

0 State High

Pan-Arabism Religion Tribe 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 Clan Family **6 8**

CLANS are extended families that trace their lineage to one patriarchal figure.

TRIBES usually consist of several clans, all of which claim a common ancestor. Tribes mediate conflict and distribute economic goods. Tribes cultivate values, such as loyalty, bravery, and shame. These are central to Arab Identity.

AN-ARABISM emphasizes solidarity between Arabs across

Medium Low





