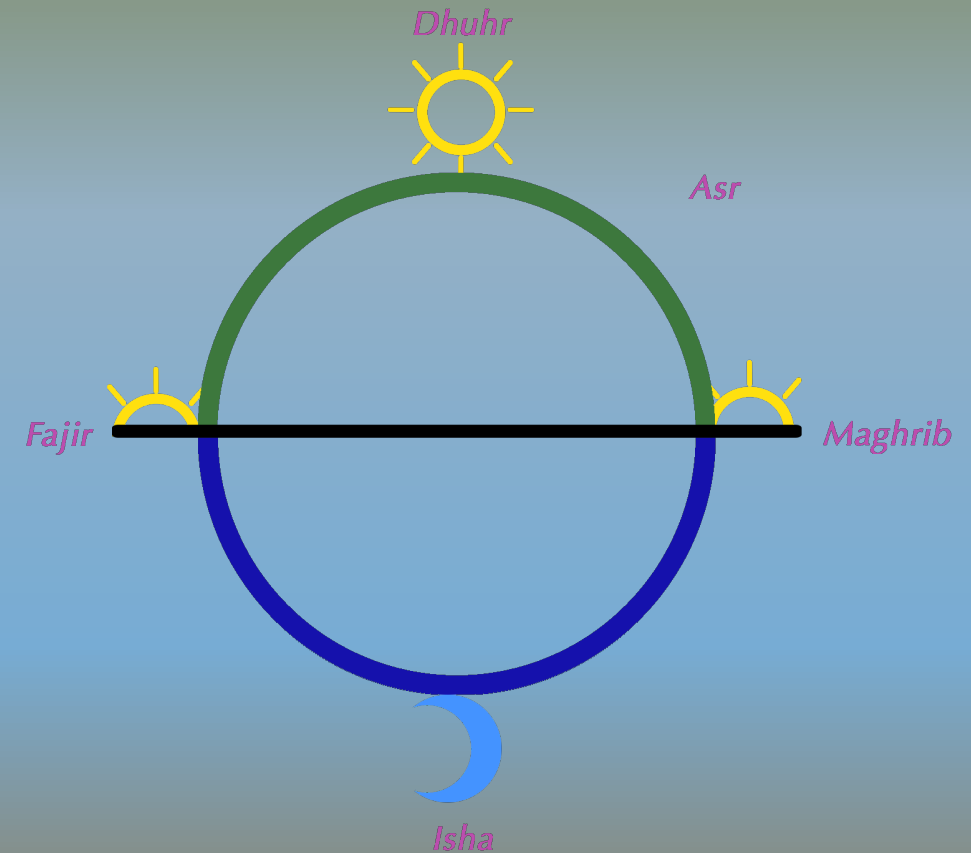


*9 Parts
of
Desire*



The Call to Prayer

Throughout *9 Parts of Desire*, you will hear the Call to Prayer. In the Islamic tradition, Muslims are called to five scheduled daily prayers: Fajr (sunrise), Dhuhr (noon), Asr (afternoon), Maghrib (sunset), and Isha (night). Before modern technology enabled people to know what time it was throughout the day, the **muezzin** (an honored, servant position in a mosque who makes the calls to prayer) made the formal announcement by calling out from the mosque using the **adhan**. **Adhan** in Arabic means "to listen". It is used by the muezzin to announce that prayers are about to begin inside the mosque. The adhan is a general statement of faith for Muslims.



Words of the Adhan (Call to Prayer)

Arabic	English	
Allahu Akbar!	God is Great!	Repeated 4 times
Ashhadu an la ilaha illa Allah.	I bear witness that there is no god except the One God.	Repeated 2 times
Ashadu anna Muhammadan Rasool Allah.	I bear witness that Muhammad is the messenger of God.	Repeated 2 times
Hayya 'ala-a-Salah	Hurry to salvation	Repeated 2 times
Allahu Akbar!	God is Great!	Repeated 2 times
La ilaha illa Allah.	There is no god except the One God	Repeated 2 times
Used at the end of Fajir: As-salutu Khayrun Minan-nawn	Used at the end of the sunrise prayer: Prayer is better than sleep.	Repeated 2 times

Layla Al-Attar

Layla Al-Attar was an Iraqi painter known for her exquisite work that has depicted Gilgamesh, the Garden of Eden, and her distorted sense of unreality. Al-Attar served as the director of the Iraqi National Art Museum. She is perhaps best-known post-mortem for her crude depiction of George H.W. Bush in a mosaic installation at the Rashid Hotel in Baghdad. An energized political piece, the mosaic conveyed the Iraqi resistance over U.S. affiliation in Iraq. It was a piece in which everyone would have to walk across Bush's face upon entering the hotel. The mosaic of Bush was removed from the hotel in 2003 when the U.S. captured Baghdad. On June 27, 1993, an Iraqi intelligence building was the target of a 24-rocket missile attack by the US. Two rockets "misfired", hitting Al-Attar's home, killing Layla, her husband, and her housekeeper. Her daughter was left blinded from the attack.

One of Al-Attar's untitled paintings caught the eye of playwright Heather Raffo in an art gallery, inspiring the character of Layal in *9 Parts of Desire*. While our production uses an interpretation of the original painting, the play refers to the original painting by the name "Savagery".

Untitled watercolor by Layla Al-Attar

Interpreted and referred to in *9 Parts of Desire* as “Savagery”



“Bush is Criminal” Mosaic by Layla Al-Attar

Installed at the Rashid Hotel in Baghdad, Iraq



One Thousand and One Nights, or The Arabian Nights: The Story of Shaharazad and Sharyar

Shahryar was king of Sassanid, near the Isles of India. One day, while he was out on a hunting trip, his brother discovered Sharyar's wife, ten concubines, and several servants were having an orgy. Enraged, his brother reported to the king the events he witnessed Sharyar's wife do while he was away. Sharyar answered this news by condemning his wife, his concubines, and the servants all to death.

Sharyar over time became grief stricken, grew mad, and his trust in women was diminished. Over the course of the next three years, Sharyar married a succession of virgins and executed them each the following morning, to avoid the possibility of being betrayed. This period became an era of darkness for his kingdom. Families began to flee in terror, as hundreds of virgins were executed at the hand of Sharyar. The king's vizier became frantic, running out of women to bring to the king, all except the vizier's own daughter, Shaharazad.

One Thousand and One Nights, or The Arabian Nights: The Story of Shaharazad and Sharyar

Shaharazad volunteered to present herself to the king, so that her father's life would be spared. Knowing her certain fate of taking the king as her husband, Shaharazad came up with a plan to obstruct certain death. Sharyar and Shaharazad married, and that night, Shaharazad put her plan into action. She began to tell the king a story; a story that kept his interest all through the night. By morning, her story was still not finished. Shaharazad told the king that she would finish the story the next night. Surprisingly, Sharyar was so entranced by Shaharazad's story that he agreed. The next night, as promised, she finished her story, and began another story. And this she repeated over, and over again, her plan was working.

Over the course of 1001 nights, Shaharazad told magnificent stories to Sharyar of all kinds that we now know as Sinbad, Ali Baba, Aladdin, and hundreds of other fables and stories of far-off lands. Sharyar grew to love these stories, his madness lifted, and his kingdom was healing. Through her story telling, Shaharazad had avoided a death sentence, and moved Sharyar's view of womenkind.



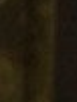
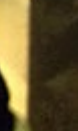
Amiriyyah Bomb Shelter

Known to the U.S. military as "Al Firdos C3 bunker", the Amiriyyah bomb shelter was added to a list of targets of newly activated Iraqi command shelters in early February 1991. Early surveyance of the shelter suggested the shelter was being used by upper leadership, as limousines and trucks were photographed by daytime satellite and traffic signals. On the morning of February 13, 1991, two U.S. stealth fighters dropped two 2,000lb bombs, ripping a devastating hole through the concrete steel reinforced bunker roof.

In actuality, the Amiriyyah shelter was being used by Iraqi refugees taking shelter from night-time air strikes. Casualties, mostly women and children, amounted to approximately 400, severely injuring an additional 200. The U.S. never detected the civilian presence, undeterred that that the bunker was being used by Iraqi intelligence, at least in the daytime.

Saddam Hussein opened the shelter to tours, used as anti-American propaganda for the remainder of his time in power. Photos of those killed in the bombings were on display as a reminder of the U.S. attack. Soon after Saddam's capture, the bomb shelter was closed to public tours, opening only to those with family lost during the bombing.





Peoples Mentioned in *9 Parts of Desire*

Bedouin – a desert dweller in the middle east and northern Africa



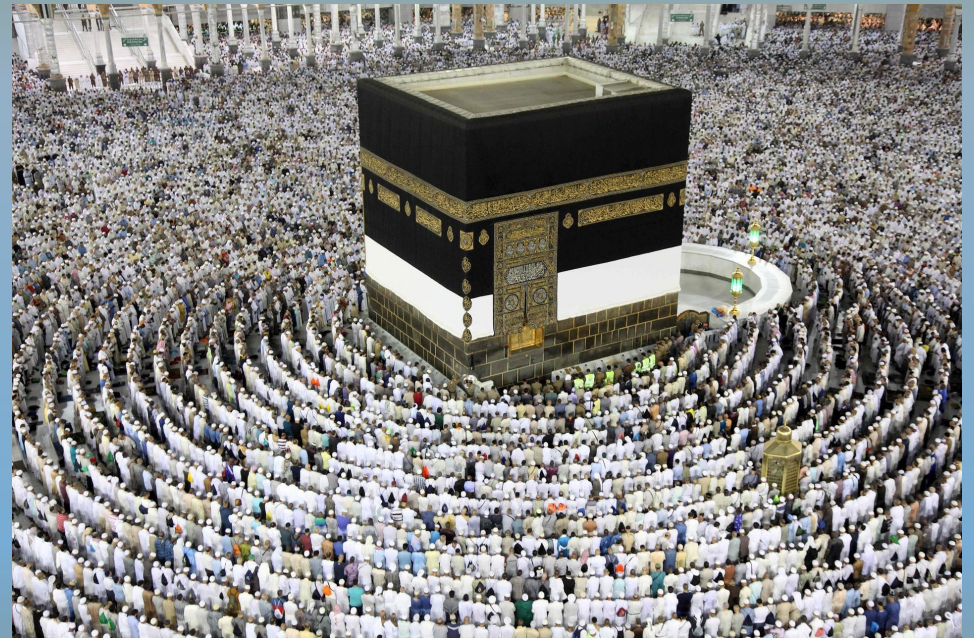
Kurd – One who belongs to the Indo-Iranian, non-Arab population that inhabits the region known as Kurdistan, an area in southwest Asia that encompasses parts of Iraq, Turkey, Iran, and sections of Syria and Armenia.



Peoples Mentioned in 9 *Parts of Desire*

Sunni – The larger of the two major branches of Islam, one who belongs to the Sunni branch of Islam. After the Prophet Muhammad's death, the Sunni followed Abu Bakr, Muhammad's companion, who became the first **caliph** (chief Muslim civil and religious leader). Sunnis believe in the consensus of the community and that the initial succession of Abu Bakr after Muhammad's death was legitimate.

Shi'a – The smaller of the two major branches of Islam, one who belongs to the Shi'a branch of Islam. The Shi'a believe that the rightful successor to the Prophet Muhammad was through the family line. After the Prophet Muhammad's death, they followed Ali, the Prophet's son-in-law and cousin. When Ali was assassinated, his son Hussein led a rebellion in Kerbala, Iraq. He was killed, and his death was marked as a foundational moment and is celebrated every year during the month of Ashura. A holy festival is held in Kerbala, and Shi'a make a pilgrimage to atone Hussein's death. The festival enact passion plays of martyrdom where people beat and whip themselves in commemoration of Hussein's suffering and murder.



Peoples Mentioned in *9 Parts of Desire*

Marsh Arabs – Direct descendants of ancient Mesopotamian cultures, Marsh Arabs live where the Tigris and Euphrates rivers meet in southern Iraq. During the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s, this area was used for refuge for soldiers defecting from the war. In 1991, the Marsh Arabs rose against Saddam Hussein following the Gulf War. As a punishment, Saddam dammed the Tigris and Euphrates rivers away from the marshes. Much of the wetlands became deserts, and many Marsh Arabs were forced from their home.



Ba'athist – A member of the Ba'ath party. A secular pan-Arab political party. Founded in Syria in 1945 and came to power in Iraq in 1963. Saddam Hussein took control of the Ba'ath party in Iraq in 1979 when he assumed the presidency. Through the Iran-Iraq war, the Ba'ath party has a major focus on military. Under Saddam, it became impossible to hold any political position or advance in the public sector without becoming a member of the Ba'athist party.



A History of Saddam Hussein

- **Born April 28, 1937, in Iraq, near the city of Tikrīt**
 - Born in one of the poorest areas in Iraq, grew up in poverty
 - Moved to Baghdad with his uncle at an early age
- **Joined the Ba'ath party in 1957**
 - **1959: Participated with Ba'athists in an unsuccessful attempt to assassinate 'Abd al-Karim Qasim, the Iraqi prime minister**
 - Saddam was wounded, and escaped to Syria, then Egypt
- **Attended Cairo Law School from 1962-1963**
 - Continued studies back in Baghdad when the Ba'athists took power in Iraq in 1963
 - Ba'athists overthrown that same year; Saddam spends several years in prison in Iraq
- **Saddam escapes prison, becomes lead of Ba'ath party, key figure in the coup of 1968**



A History of Saddam Hussein

- **Saddam holds power with President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr.**
 - 1972: Saddam directs nationalization of Iraq's oil industry
- **Saddam becomes president of Iraq upon Bakr's resignation in 1979**
 - Also becomes chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, prime minister, and other positions
 - Goal as president: supplant Egypt as leader of the Arab world and achieve total political control of the Persian Gulf
- **1980: Saddam launches invasion of Iran's oil fields**
 - Despite massive amounts of debt accrued by the end of the war in 1988, Saddam builds up the armed forces



A History of Saddam Hussein

- **August 1990: Iraq invades and occupies Kuwait to use the oil revenue to bolster the Iraqi economy**
 - The invasion triggers a world-wide trade embargo on Iraq, Saddam repeatedly ignores appeals to withdraw forces from Kuwait
- **Persian Gulf War begins on January 16, 1991, and ends 6 weeks later after Iraq's armies are driven from Kuwait**
 - In reaction to Iraq's defeat, internal rebellions by Kurds and Shi'as begin. Saddam suppresses these uprisings through murder and disappearances into the regime's prison system
 - As part of cease-fire agreement, Iraq is forbidden from producing or possessing chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons
 - Saddam continues to refuse to cooperate, leading to **Operation Desert Fox**, airstrikes led by the United States and Great Britain in late 1998



A History of Saddam Hussein

- **Saddam tightens control over Iraq, grooming one of his sons to succeed him.**
 - Strikes defiant and anti-American stance: viewed by many Arabs as the only leader willing to stand up to "American aggression"
- **September 11, 2001 attacks renew the US interest disarmament process in Iraq**
 - Saddam's continued failure to cooperate fully leads to an end of diplomacy declaration from both the US and Great Britain



A History of Saddam Hussein

- **March 17, 2003:** George Bush orders Saddam to resign and leave Iraq within 48 hours, or face war
- **Saddam refuses to step down, US and allied forces launch attack March 20th.**
 - Despite Saddam bulking up his country for anti-American rhetoric, resistance to the invasion crumbles quickly
 - **April 9:** Baghdad falls to US; Saddam flees into hiding, taking the bulk of the national treasury with him
- **July 22, 2003:** Uday and Qusay, Saddam's sons, are cornered and killed in Mosul
- **December 13, 2003:** Saddam captured near Tikrīt in an underground hiding place.



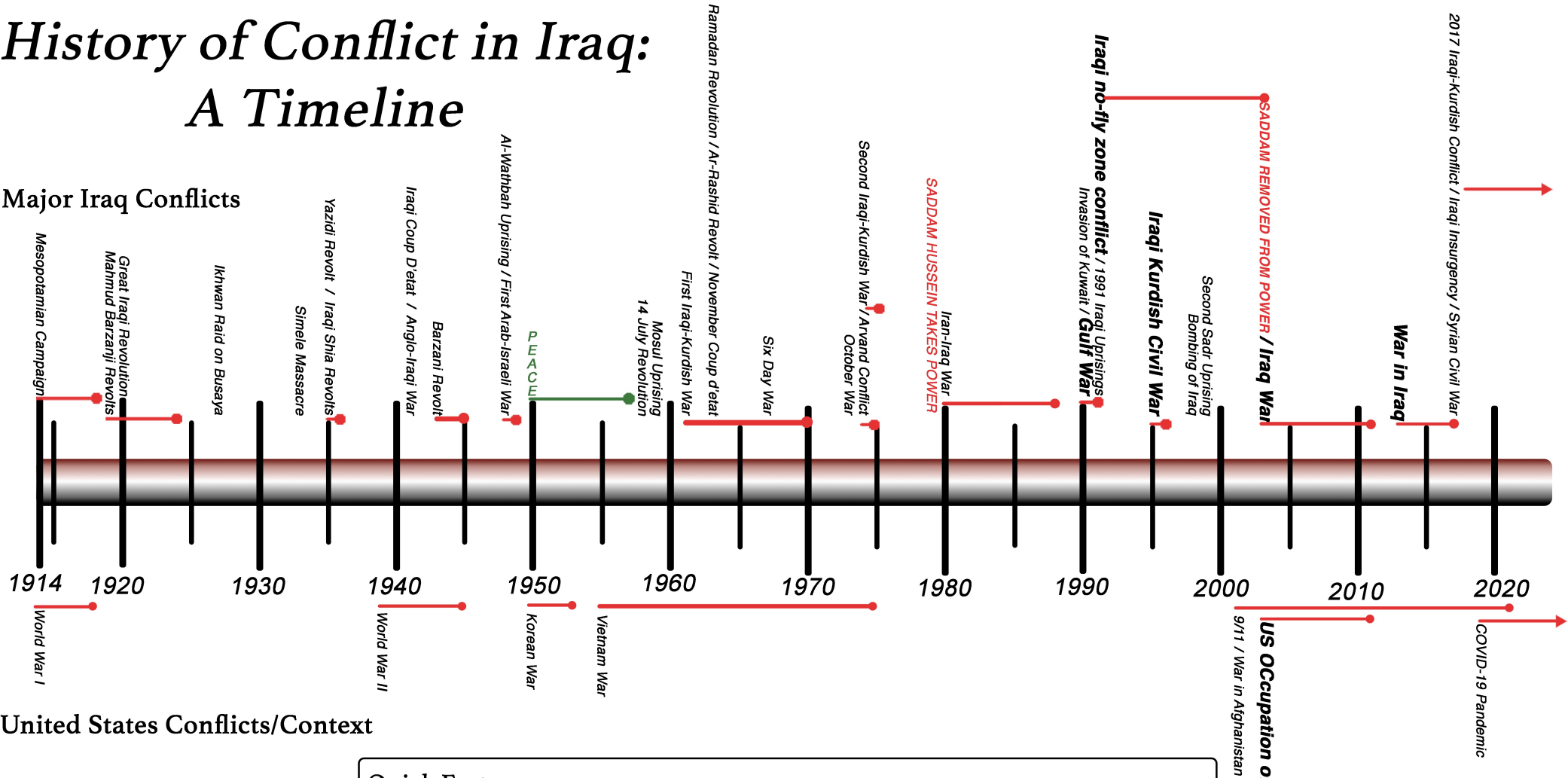
A History of Saddam Hussein

- **October 2005: Saddam goes on trial before the Iraqi High Tribunal**
 - Trial continues for 9 months, Saddam interrupts frequently with angry outbursts
- **November 2006: Saddam convicted of crimes against humanity, including willful killing, illegal imprisonment, deportation, and torture. Saddam sentenced to death by hanging.**
- **December 2006: Saddam executed after Iraqi court upholds his sentence**



History of Conflict in Iraq: A Timeline

Major Iraq Conflicts



United States Conflicts/Context

Quick Facts:

- Total years of Iraq as a country (represented on timeline): 108
- Total years with on-going conflict (currently ongoing): 77 (71%)
- Total years at peace: 31 (29%)
- Longest continuous stretches of peace: 8 years (1950-1957), 5 years (1928-1932)
- Longest continuous stretches of conflict: 22 years (1990-2011), 11 years (1914-1924)
- Major United States involvement: 26 years (1990-2011, 2013-2017)
- Saddam Hussein holds high power in Iraq for 24 years (1979-2003)