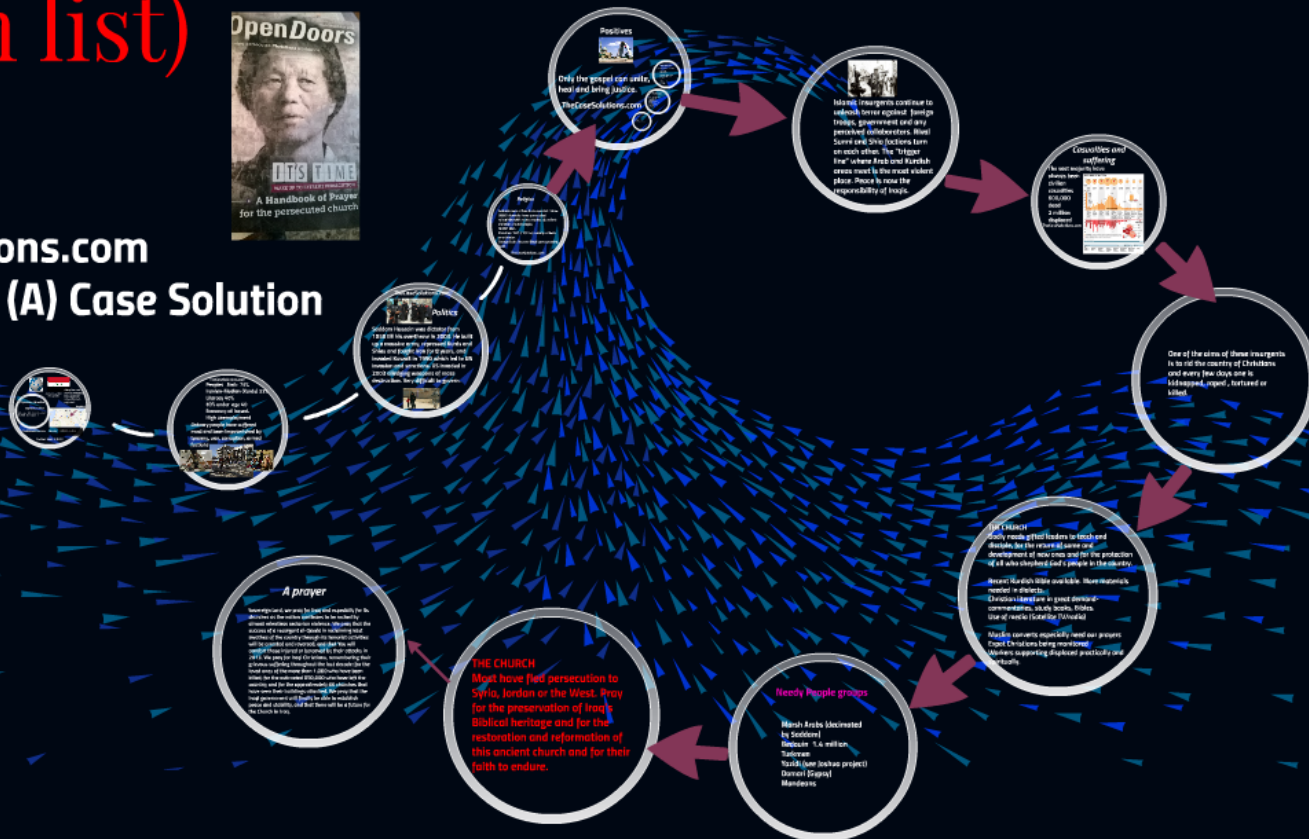


IRAQ (4th on Worldwide Watch list)

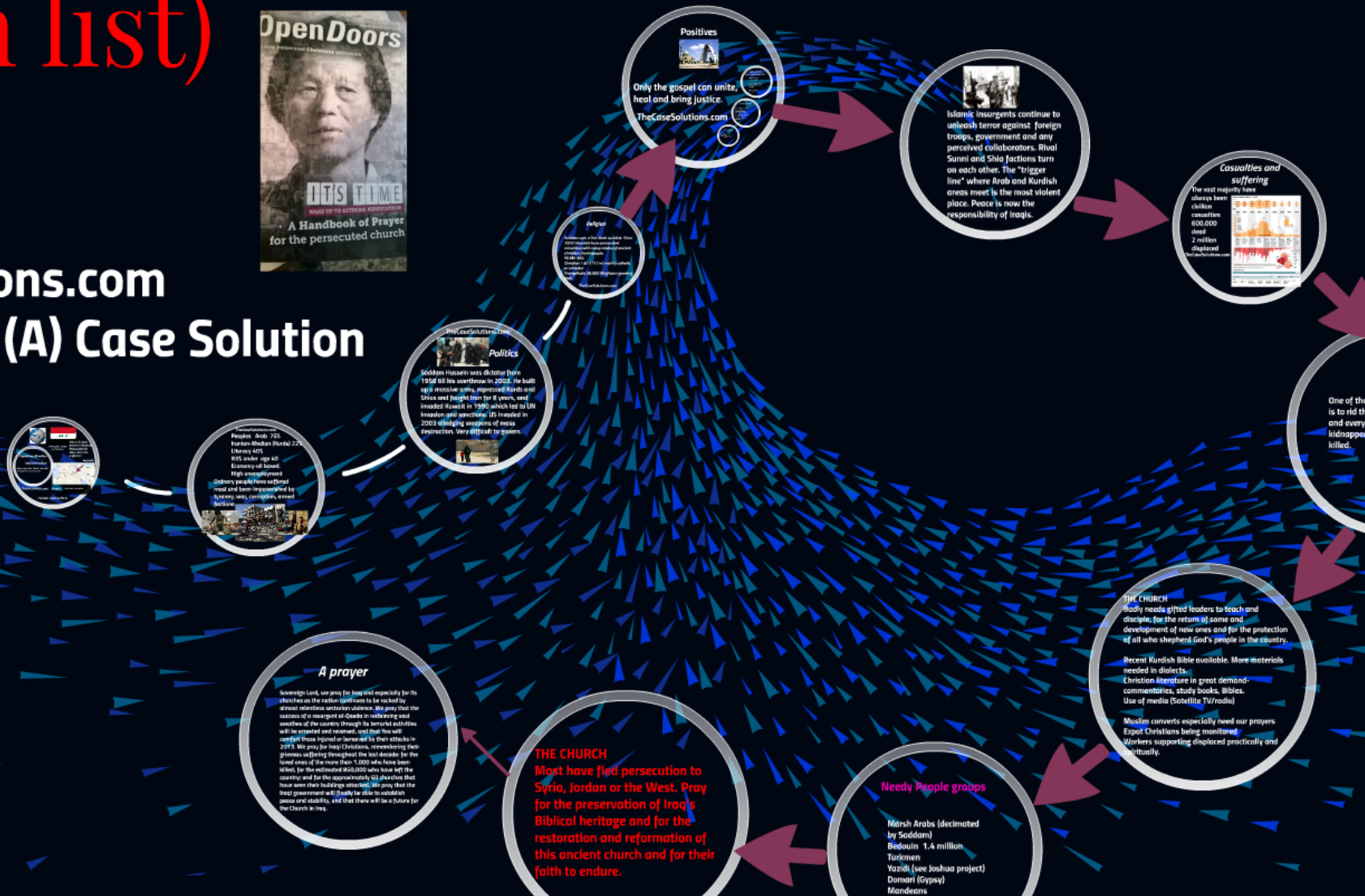
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IRAQ (4th on Worldwide Watch list)



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Fertile plains of Tigris and Euphrates

Site of the most ancient civilizations (Mesopotamia) where Abraham originated.

Population 36 million

Baghdad 6 million

Other major cities Mosul 1.5m, Irbil (Kurdish) 1m and Basra 1m

Baghdad



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Peoples

Shia Arabs dominate

President Nouri al-Maliki

Baghdad



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m, Irbil

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Peoples

Shia Arabs dominate

resident Nouri al-Maliki

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Peoples Arab 75%

Iranian-Median (Kurds) 22%

Literacy 40%

83% under age 40

Economy-oil based.

High unemployment

Ordinary people have suffered most and been impoverished by tyranny, war, corruption, armed factions





Politics

Saddam Hussein was dictator from 1958 till his overthrow in 2003. He built up a massive army, repressed Kurds and Shias and fought Iran for 8 years, and invaded Kuwait in 1990 which led to UN invasion and sanctions. US invaded in 2003 alledging weapons of mass destruction. Very difficult to govern.



Religion

Saddam was a Pan-Arab socialist. Since 2003 Islamists have persecuted minorities with mass exodus of ancient christian churchpeople.

ISLAM 96%

Christian 1.6% (1/2 m) mainly catholic or orthodox

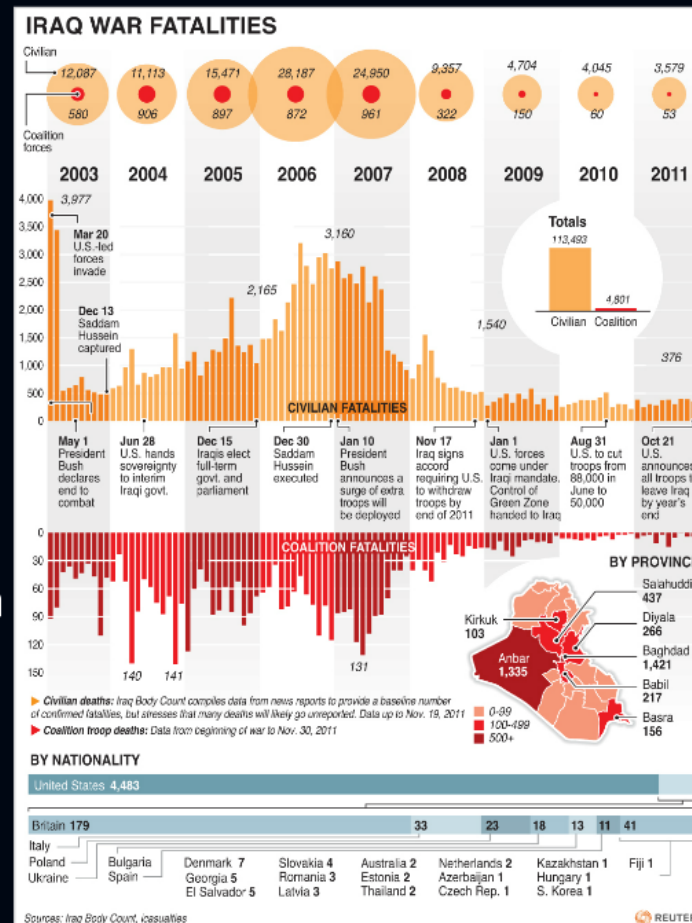
Evangelicals 50,000 (Anglicans growing fast)

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Casualties and suffering

The vast majority have always been civilian casualties
 600,000 dead
 2 million displaced

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Positives



Only the gospel can unite,
heal and bring justice.

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Representative government now exists

Reforms being
implemented

Iraqi evangelicals grown
from a few hundred to
53,000

Kurdish church
emerging

But still needed

Accountable government
Economic growth
Religious freedom
Healing from trauma
Elimination of corruption
Protection of women
Children-water, food,
schooling.

Deep divisions

Kurd v Arab
Sunni v Shia
Muslims v minorities
Secular Baathists v Islamists