

IRAQ SADRIST MOVEMENT

Party Portrait

The Sadrist movement, led by Muqtada al-Sadr, is an Iraqi Islamist national movement supported by Iraqi Shia. The philosophy of the movement centers on religious sharia laws, traditional tribal customs, and anti-American Iraqi nationalism. After the US removed Saddam Hussein from power, al-Sadr’s movement became more public, turning a poor suburb of Baghdad where his followers lived into “Sadr City.” In 2010, the Sadrist movement became a part of the Iraqi National Alliance, running for parliamentary election with a platform of expelling the United States from Iraq.

Key Interests

- Maintain Shia power in Baghdad
- Increase Iranian influence in Baghdad
- Reduce US and Saudi influence in Iraq
- Establish sharia law in Iraq

Sources of Leverage

Soft Power – The Sadrist movement maintains religious authority and support from Iraq’s majority Shias
Economic - The movement enjoys support (financial and ideological) from Iran
Political - The Ahrar party currently holds 34 seats in the Council of Representatives.

Regional Strategy

The Sadrist movement’s main strategy centers on appealing to Iraqi Shias who felt marginalized and victimized by Saddam Hussein and subsequent international interference. The movement protests the Abadi government because of its ties to US influence in Iraq.

Powerful Individuals

Muqtada al-Sadr (leader of movement)

Potential Negotiation Moves

Improve Relations with Iran – to increase Shia political power and block coalition building
Block Abdai - Continue divisive rhetoric, protest, and actions that render Abdai ineffective and block attempts to subsume religious identity beneath a more holistic Iraqi nationalism
Build Coalition - Create coalition with other groups around shared interests and leave National Alliance

Internal Conflicts

Internal differences hinge on the extent to which the movement should forge deeper ties with Iran or build cross-sect coalition within Iraq. Members of the movement support different groups in Syria and disagree about the best strategy there.

Memberships

N/A

Allies

N/A

Partners

IRAQ Supreme Islamic Council

Rivals

HUMANITARIAN ACTORS, KURDS of Iraq, IRAQ Secular Nationalist Parties, IRAQ State of Law Coalition, SAUDI ARABIA

Adversaries

UNITED STATES

Active Armed Opponents

ISIS

Proxy

N/A

External Sponsor

IRAN

Aid Recipient

N/A

Aid Donor

N/A