

IRAQ STATE OF LAW COALITION

Party Portrait

The State of Law Coalition was formed in 2009 by Nouri al-Maliki, then Prime Minister of Iraq. The coalition was originally formed to empower its (primarily Shia) members -- including the Islamic Dawa Party -- in the 2009 Iraqi governorate elections. In 2010, the coalition incorporated a few additional parties and ran in the Iraqi parliamentary elections, winning a majority of seats. The coalition also ran in the 2013 governorate elections, winning fewer seats than in 2009. Haider al-Abadi, who assumed office in September 2014, is now the Prime Minister of Iraq.

Key Interests

- Dismantle government quota system in favor of a “governing majority” that favors the parliamentary majority (State of Law)
- Consolidate Dawa Party and other participating parties’ power
- Maliki: Seek revenge against Sunni minority in Iraq and dismantle Sunni power, particularly within the security sector
- Abadi: Increase coexistence measures with Sunnis and Kurds

Sources of Leverage

Political – The Coalition currently holds 94/325 seats of Parliament and the current Prime Minister of Iraq is a member of a participating party (The Dawa Party). The former Prime Minister of Iraq is the current leader of The Dawa Party. The Dawa Party is credible for its historic opposition to Saddam Hussein

Economic - The oil industry provides 90% of government revenue, though low oil prices in recent years have caused economic volatility

Geographic - With ISIS fighting in Iraqi territory, the Iraqi government can leverage its position to gain assistance from others

Regional Strategy

The coalition’s strategy includes using its position within parliament to achieve its interests, and leveraging sectarian tensions to consolidate power and justify increasing executive authority. Under Abadi, strategy includes reforms to stabilize the country and decrease corruption.

Powerful Individuals

Haider al-Abadi (Prime Minister of Iraq, Dawa Party), Nouri al-Maliki (Former Prime Minister, Dawa Party), Kamal Saadi (Leader, State of Law Coalition), Ali al-Sistani (spiritual leader)

Potential Negotiation Moves

Reconfigure Government - Reconfigure Iraqi government to (i) end governance based on confessional identities and (ii) empower mixed coalitions (which include Sunni, Shia, Kurdish and independent parties) to rule instead of singular, ethno-sectarian parties.

Connect with Kurds - Increase ties to Erbil and benefit from the Kurds’ networks, military strategy, and oil exportation capacities.

Empower Women - Move past sectarian division, create stronger ties with the international community, and become a regional leader in support of human rights.

Ally with Russia, Iran - Forge deeper ties with Russia and Iran to increase power against ISIS.

Russia vs. US - Play Russia and US against one another in contest to fight ISIS from Iraqi territory, access oil market, etc.

Internal Conflicts

Current tensions exist between Dawa Party elites that want to keep quota system in government and retain Abadi and those that do not. Both Sunni and Shia politicians have sought to remove Abadi from power in the past. Abadi has criticized Maliki’s divisive governing, resulting in tensions between the two.

Memberships

ARAB LEAGUE, IAEA, OIC, OPEC, UN

Allies

N/A

Partners

EGYPT Government, EUROPEAN UNION, HOLY SEE, IRAN, JORDAN, LEBANON Government, RUSSIA, UNITED STATES

Rivals

IRAQ Islamic Supreme Council, ISRAEL, KURDS of Iraq, KUWAIT, IRAQ Sadrist Movement, IRAQ Secular Nationalist Parties, SAUDI ARABIA, SUDAN, SYRIA Government

Adversaries

N/A

Active Armed Opponents

ISIS

Proxy

N/A

External Sponsor

N/A

Aid Recipient

N/A

Aid Donor

HUMANITARIAN ACTORS, INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, IRAN, RUSSIA, UNITED STATES