

Archives Unbound: U.S. and Iraqi Relations: U.S. Technical Aid, 1950-1958



Archives Unbound

Archives Unbound answers the call within libraries and university departments to digitise small collections of primary source material. This new online resource digitises the most sought-after microfilm collections from Gale and Primary Source Media, capturing defining moments in history. Between 5,000 to 200,000 pages per title, these specialist collections act as small adjuncts to the large Gale digital collections making them an affordable option for libraries and departments.

U.S. and Iraqi Relations: U.S. Technical Aid, 1950-1958

The program of technical cooperation in Iraq, prior to the Revolution of 1958, was frequently cited as an example of the ideal Point Four program. The overthrow of the established government led naturally to questions concerning the “failure” of American technical assistance in that country. This collection illuminates these efforts in detail and an intuitive platform makes it all cross-searchable by subject or collection.

International Cooperation Administration and Point Four

The International Cooperation Administration program in Iraq typified the Point Four ideal. Under this ideal, the U.S. helped newly-developed nations acquire technical “know-how” needed for promoting economic growth.

Fields of Activities

In the 1950s, 75% of the Iraqi population derived their livelihood from the soil, therefore agriculture constituted the most important area of USOM activity. Agricultural technicians were supplied to various branches of the government with the principal emphasis on the well-known American triumvirate of the land-grant college system – research, education and a country-wide extension service.

- In public health: USOM emphasized preventive medicine, since in Iraq preventive medicine was not practiced as much as curative medicine
- In education: USOM emphasized technical training, an obvious need in a country where illiteracy was high. Special technical schools were established and greater emphasis was placed on technical work in the public schools
- In public administration: despite a slow start, this was one of the most important USOM programs. Surveys were made in several fields such as personnel, finance, records management and so forth. Technical advisors were supplied where needed and American bureaucratic ideals were utilized. A public safety training program was also established.
- In community development: a program planned the establishment of a nationwide system of multi-purpose village-level workers who were to improve the average villager’s life. These workers were trained in techniques for stimulating local initiative and cooperative community action.
- In transportation: the USOM supplied a group of engineers to help the Ministry of Works and Communications develop a highway system and to maintain the system.

Features:

- Intuitive searches that deliver organised results
- Highlighted keywords to facilitate research
- Flexible and accessible for the 24-hour researcher
- Subject-specific collections support multidisciplinary research in history, political science, hard science, ethnic studies and more
- Active publishing schedule, with multiple collections added annually
- Highly targeted at 5,000 to 200,000 pages per collection