

## Iraq Poised to Become Increasingly Dependent on Iran for Electricity

By Michael Rubin  
OE Watch Commentary

Decades of sanctions, war, and corruption have eroded Iraq's electrical grid. While both the United States and Iraq have invested billions of dollars into Iraq's grid, Iraq's rapidly expanding population—more than 40 percent of Iraqis were born after 2003—and a flood of energy consuming appliances and technologies have left Iraq perennially short on capacity. During the previous U.S. administration's "maximum pressure" campaign, Iraqi authorities negotiated an exception so that they could purchase Iranian gas and electricity. The proceeds were deposited into an escrow account in the Iraqi Central Bank from which Iran could then debit expenses for Iranian purchases made in Iraq. U.S. authorities saw the Iranian electricity purchases as necessary to fulfill Iraq's needs

“These companies are ready to provide favorable electrical services to Iraq.”

in the short term but sought to augment Iraq's ability to capture flared gas in the medium term to enable Iraq to become more self-sufficient. As sanctions unwind, Iran seems to be positioning itself to augment again Iraq's power dependence upon it. The excerpted article from the state-run Iranian *Islamic Students News Agency* covers the visit between Iraqi Electricity Minister Majid Mahdi Hantoush and Iranian Deputy Energy Minister Mohammad Hassan Motavallizadeh to discuss upgrading the network and connections between the two countries. Iraj Masjedi, an Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force veteran who now serves as Iran's ambassador in Baghdad, tweeted that the trip is meant to cement further energy cooperation between the neighboring states.

**Source:** “Sharkatha-ye Irani Amadeh Ara’e Khodmat-e Barqi beh Iraq Hastand (Iranian Companies Ready to Provide Electrical Services to Iraq),” *Islamic Students News Agency* (State-run news agency), 3 May 2021. <https://www.isna.ir/news/1400021309173>

*Referring to the capacities and capabilities of Iranian electric companies, a spokesman for the electricity industry said, “These companies are ready to provide favorable electrical services to Iraq.” The Iraqi Minister of Electricity [Majid Mahdi Hantoush] visited to see the capabilities of the Electricity Industry Monitoring Center and the progress of Iran’s electricity industry in network intelligence in order to reduce outages and control consumption. After this visit, Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi, spokesman for the electricity industry, said in a video message: “Today, the Iranian Electricity Industry Monitoring Center is hosting the Iraqi Minister of Electricity. The purpose of this meeting is to present our country’s experiences in reducing electricity network losses in the last five years.” He stated that presenting our country’s experiences on smart grid intelligence was another goal of this meeting, and said, “Providing engineering services to Iraq is another goal of the meeting, given the excellent potential of equipment suppliers, contractors and consultants.”*



**China's cyber policy appears to have three vectors—peace activist, espionage activist, and attack planner—that dominate China's cyber policy. Some are always hidden from view while others are demonstrated daily. Three Faces of the Cyber Dragon is divided into sections that coincide with these vectors.**

<https://community.apan.org/wg/tradoc-g2/fmso/m/fmso-books/195610/download>