MUKHABARAT
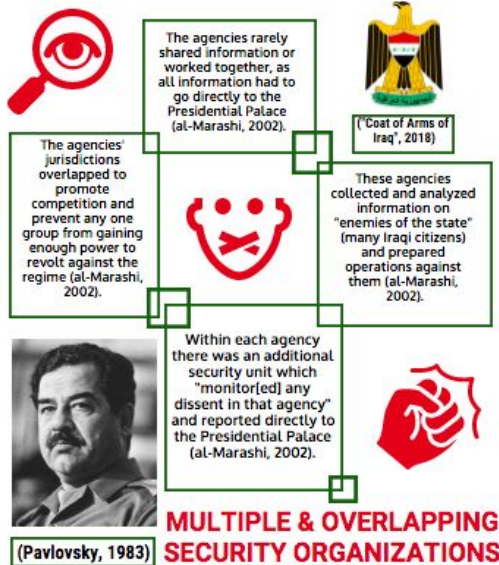
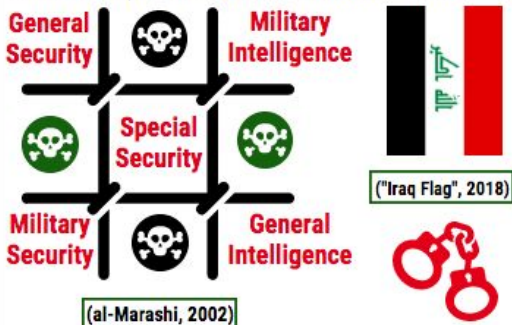## Iraq's Facilitation of Authoritarian Control via a Complex System of Multiple, Overlapping Security Organizations

The agencies rarely shared information or worked together, as all information had to go directly to the Presidential Palace (al-Marashi, 2002).

("Coat of Arms of Iraq", 2018)

The agencies' jurisdictions overlapped to promote competition and prevent any one group from gaining enough power to revolt against the regime (al-Marashi, 2002).

These agencies collected and analyzed information on "enemies of the state" (many Iraqi citizens) and prepared operations against them (al-Marashi, 2002).

Within each agency there was an additional security unit which "monitor[ed] any dissent in that agency" and reported directly to the Presidential Palace (al-Marashi, 2002).

(Pavlovsky, 1983)

MULTIPLE & OVERLAPPING SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS

MUKHABARAT

was Iraq's security apparatus under Saddam Hussein. The five primary agencies of Mukhabarat are pictured below. These separate yet overlapping agencies worked to protect Saddam, prevent coups, and "maintain internal domestic security and conduct foreign affairs" (al-Marashi, 2002). Along with these agencies, the Ba'ath party and select units of the military worked to ensure Saddam's safety and that "every aspect of Iraqi life" was under Saddam's complete and total control (al-Marashi, 2002).

General Security — **Military Intelligence** — **Special Security** — **Military Security** — **General Intelligence**

("Iraq Flag", 2018)

(al-Marashi, 2002)

FACILITATION OF AUTHORITARIAN CONTROL

- GENERAL SECURITY "monitor[ed] the day-to-day lives of the population, creating a pervasive local presence" (al-Marashi, 2002).
- MILITARY INTELLIGENCE "ensure[d] the loyalty of the military and gather[ed] military intelligence" (al-Marashi, 2002).
- MILITARY SECURITY is tasked with "internal security and detecting dissention in the armed forces" (al-Marashi, 2002).
- SPECIAL SECURITY "suppress[ed] domestic opposition to the regime" (al-Marashi, 2002).
- The main task of GENERAL INTELLIGENCE was the "infiltration of anti-regime organizations, such the Iraqi National Accord, an opposition group based in Jordan" (al-Marashi 2002).

Works Cited

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