Nainita Madurai

**Topic Idea for Final Essay:**

The essay will focus on the Kurdish conflict in northern Iraq. Though the Kurdish conflict in Turkey will be discussed briefly, the essay will mainly address the situation of Iraqi Kurds.

This is a conflict that has existed since the fall of the Ottoman Empire after the First World War. However, for the purposes of this essay the time frame will span from the 1970s to the present.

The essay will examine the multidimensional factors that influence the Iraqi-Kurdistan conflict and will be split into two intertwined parts. The first will contain the history of the Kurdish situation and will examine how the situation became the way it is. The second will examine where the situation stands now and possible resolutions to the conflict.

The various topics include but are not limited to the following issues: the non-homogenous Kurdish ethnicity, the ethnic differences between the Kurdish and Arab populations, the significance of Kirkuk for Baghdad and the Kurds, the issue of oil exportation and revenues, the American influence on the Iraqi Kurds, and the issue of sovereignty and independence. Furthermore, the essay will discuss in detail the political and social identities that define the problem that the Kurds face and how the countries that they inhabit have dealt with Kurdish populations.

**Possible Sources for Analysis:**

**Ethnic Conflict and the Kurds**

The article discusses the steps Kurds have taken to gain autonomy or independence and why they have failed. It discusses in detail what the Kurds have done in the three countries in which they have significant populations: Iraq, Iran and Turkey. The article examines what obstacles the Kurds must overcome. It also discusses what battles they have already fought and the difficulties they have faced in their political and social movements.

**The Fate of the Kurds**

This article discusses how Kurds are seeking cultural and political autonomy and what regional conflicts they are causing because of this. Though the Kurdish population is not homogenous, the ethnic barriers that separate them are beginning to fall. Consequently the borders that separate them are also breaking down. The article explains how and why the countries housing the Kurds should allow for more federalism and acceptance. Without cooperation turmoil will continue.

Works Cited

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