



A PARALLEL STUDY IN A HUNDRED AND ONE DAYS:A BAGHDAD JOURNAL BY ÅSNE SEIERSTAD.

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Abstract

This study critically examines the work of Norwegian freelance journalist Åsne Seierstad, who bravely documented the conditions in Iraq before, during, and after the American invasion. In her non-fictional work, "A Hundred and One Days: A Baghdad Journal," Seierstad risked her life to present a vivid picture of life in Baghdad and its suburbs amidst the turmoil of war. The analysis delves into the historical and political context of Iraq, illuminating the nation's transformation from the golden age of Islamic power under the Abbasid caliphate to the dictatorial reign of Saddam Hussein, and ultimately to its post-war state. The study gives due consideration to both primary and secondary sources, echoing the methodological approach of New Historicism. Seierstad's narratives elucidate the horrifying plight of civilians, the political landscape, and the public sentiment towards the dictator. The article also provides a detailed account of the dictator's capture, trial, and execution. The study underscores the importance of understanding the historical background and its impact on contemporary events, and it provides an in-depth exploration of Seierstad's ground reporting, contributing significant insights into the realities of war, power, and human resilience.

Keywords: Anecdotes, Parallel Reading, Invasion, History.

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1. Introduction

Åsne Seierstad stayed along with other journalist in Iraq and observed the condition of Iraq before and after war. During war she stayed in Iraq and gave essential information about war in Iraq in the form of a non – fictional work titled as A Hundred and One Days and it also subtitled as A Baghdad Journal. She stayed three months in Iraq and reported on the war in Iraq. Iraq is located between the two great rivers which mean Mesopotamia. The Mesopotamia is the ancient Greek name for Iraq. Most of the people in Iraq were Arabs. The nation became republic on July 14, 1958. The largest minority group in the country was the Kurds. The Kurds stayed in northern Iraq. The other minority groups in Iraq were the Turkmen, Armenians, and Assyrians. The people in Iraq spoke Arabic and Kurdish language. Both the languages gained the status of official language of Iraq. The Arabs conquered Iraq during 7th century. They spread Islam throughout the land. After the Arabs, Iraq was ruled by Abbasid caliphate. Abbasid caliphate ruled the nation during the middle of the 8th century; it is also known as the golden age of Islamic power and culture. Baghdad became the second largest city in the world during the rule of Abbasid caliphate. The great Mongol conqueror Genghis Khan's grandson named Hulagu conquered Baghdad in 13th century. The Ottoman Turks gain control over the state in the 17th century. The last period of the Ottoman Turks paved the way for the modern history of Iraq. The Britain and Germany became rivals to Iraq in the latter part of the 19th century. The Ottoman Empire lost its control over its territories after the First World War. After the First World War Faisal I of Iraq became the king of Iraq with the support of British. In 1932 Iraq joined the League of Nations as an independent state. At the beginning of the Second World War Iraq had broken its diplomatic relationship with Germany. This broke of relationship happened because of Iraq's treaty of alliance with the Britain. After the nation become republic, it faces many problems.

The leaders fought among themselves fought for the power to rule the state. This action gives rise to the development of the bath party. The Kurdish revolt was the major event happened during 1974. The Iran supplied arms to the Kurdish group to fight against the native rulers. The dictator Saddam Hussein becomes president of Iraq in 1979. He was the member of the Baath party. He was basically a slayer. He killed many senior party members and army officers for treachery. Through his violent actions he proved himself as a dictator. He never allowed others to raise questions against him. The border conflict was a major issue between Iraq and Iran. The war between Iraq and Iran lasted for eight

years. After the end of war with Iran, the Iraqi government suppressed Kurdish people in the northern part of Iraq. The chemical weapons were used by the Iraq army against the native Kurdish people in Iraq. In the attack Saddam killed 5000 people using mass destructive chemical weapons. The Iraq forces during the war with Iran in 1990, claimed that the overproduction done by Kuwait was the major threat for the Iraq's economic depression. During August 2 Kuwait was invaded by the Iraqi soldiers. Saddam Hussein's behavior disturbed American president George William Bush. In January 1991 the United States marines stated its attack on the Iraq's army locations near by Saudi Arabia. This was the beginning of the Persian Gulf War. The aerial bombardment was conducted by America against Iraq army in Kuwait as a result the Iraq soldiers left Kuwait. In this war ten thousand Iraqi soldiers were killed during the American attack. In the Persian Gulf War Iraq's nuclear and chemical weapons were ruthlessly damaged by the American forces. During the Gulf war, in the northern part of Iraq sixty thousand Kurds were protected by the allied forces in the course of Persian Gulf War.

America began its rivalry against Iraq after Iraq invading Kuwait in order to steel the oil wealth. Saddam Hussein often had conflict with the neighbouring countries. The nation engaged in three wars during the reign of Saddam Hussein. The dictator had a thought in his mind to prove himself superior to the world. He has no proper scheme for the development of the native people of his land. Before the U.N authorities left Iraq in 1998, destroyed thousands of chemical weapons and hundreds of missiles and destroyed other harmful equipment's which are considered to be dangerous to the mankind. Thomas E. Ricks in the text titled The American Military Adventure in Iraq in the chapter "Bad Ending" pictures the factual political scenario as follows, ". . . the U.S. government went to war in Iraq with scant solid international support and on the basis of incorrect information— about weapons of mass destruction and a supposed nexus between Saddam Hussein and al Qaeda's terrorism—and then occupied the country negligently" (14). The combined military forces lead by United States decides to remove Saddam Hussein from power. In March 2003 the alliance invaded Baghdad. The capital of Iraq was smashed by carpet bombing. In April 2003 the U.S forces captured Baghdad. Latter Saddam Hussein was captured by the U.S forces near his home town Tikrit. He was charged for the crimes against humanity, and at last he was hanged to death.

Saddam Hussein was born in poor family near Tikrit. In 1955, he moved to Baghdad and involved

in politics. After joining the Baath party, he organized the assassination attempt on the military president of Iraq named Abdul Karim Kassem. In the attempt both of them were injured. Saddam escaped to Cairo, and he studied law in Cairo. In 1963, he was back to Baghdad along with his wife and gained the post of assistant secretary general of the Baath Party. Most of the party members were his relatives and later they became the supporters of Saddam Hussein. In 1969, he became the vice chairman of the council. He became great speaker by speaking on nation's major domestic problems to the people. Often, he had conflict with the Kurdish leaders. In 1973, the government-built schools, universities, factories, and hospitals with the help of economic development in the country. The economy developed in the state because of the hike of oil products in the world market. After the death of the president al-Bakr, he became the chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council and president of the country. He discarded the 1975 agreement with Iran and later he invaded Iran. Hussein targeted on the oil resource in Iran. He refused to truce until 1988. During the war with Iran, Iraq used chemical weapons against Iran soldiers. The Iran – Iraq war bought huge debt to Iraq, but Saddam was happy because he proved the world that his army is powerful by annexing Iran. Seierstad says Saddam is everywhere in Iraq. This means, he is a man of publicity. The large posters displaying his portrait are present everywhere in Iraq. He wore different costumes in different posters. His picture is displayed in restaurants, on public buildings, street corners, and in squares. He makes an appearance on each of the ministry buildings. The observation as follows: "Outside the Ministry of Justice he is holding up scales. By the Ministry of Defence, he sits on a tank. He stands in the field by the Ministry of Agriculture and wields a hammer and anvil by the Ministry of Industry . . . In front of mosques, he is praying and near a tea shop he is drinking tea." (Seierstad 29) The dictator Saddam Hussein was not conscious about the future. His devastating behaviour against his neighbouring countries put an end to his ruling history of Iraq.

The American forces killed Iraqi soldiers in plenty. The death count begins from the minimum of 10,000 to the maximum of 100,000 soldiers. The dictator had no idea to save the life of his soldiers. He not at all cared for the death of his native soldiers. The observations of Malcolm W. Nance in the chapter "Who Is Fighting in Iraq?" narrates the defencelessness of Iraqi soldiers in protecting the natives of the land can be evident through these lines "They have been killing soldiers, innocent Iraqis, and citizens from other nations with a brutality and relentlessness never imagined by any

group anywhere in the world." (3) .He was the only person responsible for the death of many soldiers during the war. He never thought about the consequences of invading the neighbouring state. He used chemical weapons against Iran during Iran – Iraq war. After the usage of chemical weapons against Iran the world nations focused its attention towards Iraq.

Saddam's greed to poses the wealth of oil resources in Kuwait, brought catastrophe for Iraq and himself. He was unable to make right decision at the right time. Though he practiced law he was unable to judge the situation around him. He enjoyed mass killing of Sunni Muslims. Like other dictators in the world, he also practiced brutal killing of people in groups. The cruelty developed within himself. Hegel and Some philosophers said: "Human nature never changes used most often in the context one of the less attractive human characteristics like greed, lust, or cruelty . . . Thus the nature of human desire, according to Hegel, is not given for all time, but changes between historical periods and cultures." (Fukuyama 63).

Åsne Seierstad recorded the speech given by American president George William Bush before the attack on Baghdad. Before war the president of United States said that the regime of Saddam Hussein was a great threat to America, because the nation has massdestructive weapons, and the nation also had link with international terrorism. During the invasion of Kuwait, George William Bush's father named George Herbert Walker Bush was the president of America. According to his instruction the allied forces expelled Iraqitroops from Kuwait. After the defeat of Saddam Hussein's army in the Persian Gulf War the Shia Muslims revolted against the ruler, because they were humiliated by Saddam Hussein for many long years. The autocrat showed his cruelty against Shia Muslims, because he belongs to the opposite Sunni Muslim clan. A ruler should not be partial with his people, but he proved himself as a partial ruler. He warns Saddam Hussein and his family members to move away from Iraq with in next forty-eight hours. He said "It is toolate for Saddam Hussein to remain in power" (Bodansky 180). He said that the Iraq military should permit the peaceful entry of coalition forces to eliminate the weapons of mass destruction. If the Iraq military and Saddam Hussein refuse the message then the result will end up in military conflict. He also alerted the international journalists and inspectors to move away from Iraq. He sends this message through television in order to safe guard the life of journalists. This information was delivered by the president a couple of days before the attack on Baghdad. The author states, "American president appears on

T.V screens around the world. Saddam Hussein and his sons must leave Iraq within 48 hours. Their refusal to do so will result in military conflict commenced at the time of our choosing . . . For their own safety, all foreign nationals, including journalists and inspectors, should leave Iraq immediately. (Seierstad 149) Seierstad describes the cruelty of the war in Iraq. The American forces launched the war with the invasion of Iraq in March 20, 2003. The U.S troops invaded Baghdad, and collapsed Hussein's regime. The minimum number of U.S soldiers was killed during the war by the Iraqi army. The other American soldiers were died due to illness, drowning, traffic accidents, and other causes. The American war heads collapsed entire Iraq. The buildings were demolished by the land and the air forces. The Iraqi physicians estimated that about 655,000 had died in Iraq as a result of war. The world health organization and the Iraqi ministry of health reported that 151,000 Iraqi, civilians and fighters, died violently in March 2003 to 2006. 10,000 Iraqi civilians lost their residents during war. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees projected that 2.3 million Iraqi had escaped from their country and another 2.3 million Iraqi people were displaced from their homes within Iraq. She mentioned about the sufferings faced by Russul as evidence in her non fictional work *A Hundred and One Days*. The war continued even during the night. The recorded information by Seierstad during the war as follows: "If the night glows with light and flames, the day reveals the real terror. The fires have been put out and the sun light exposes the targets: craters, ruins, collapsed buildings. Every night hundreds of wounded Iraqis are brought to Baghdad hospitals." (Seierstad 176)

Seierstad records major events and incidents happened during the war. The sound of danger sirens was heard over the streets of Baghdad. In the book *Collateral Damage: America's War Against Iraqi Civilians*, in the chapter "Raids" Chris Hedges and Laila Al-Arian states, "Raids or "cordon and search operations," usually take place between midnight and 5 a.m. They are a common occurrence in Iraq." (51). The ambulances moved around the streets of Baghdad. The injured civilians during war were carried to hospitals with the help of ambulance. Saddam Hussein was targeted by the Americans, because if they kill the president of Iraq, it will be the end of war. The Americans can easily set up a new government in Iraq. The Americans used missiles to kill the dictator, but he was escaped from the missile attack. The missile reduced the place in to small pieces. The missiles were launched from submarines and navy ships. And they used F – 17A

stealth strike fighters. On the previous day morning CIA Director George Tenet met the Bush and gave the fresh data from Baghdad. The American intelligent source has identified in advance that Saddam Hussein and his two sons were going to spend the night at Baghdad complex called Dora Farm. CIA reported that the dictator was inside the underground shelter in the Dora Farm. The two F – 17A stealth strike fighters dropped their bombs on the main building of Dora Farm. Less than a minute forty cruise missiles had destroyed the building without any trace. The American spy network reported that Saddam and his two sons were not present during the time of attack, and they reported five major military leaders were killed during the attack on Dora Farm.

Late in the morning the dictator Saddam Hussein appears on the television and delivered a speech to his country people. Rather than facing the camera he read his speech from the steno pad. He said the Americans started the attack during the hours of prayer. He stimulated the civilians of his nation to fight against "Little Bush" (Seierstad 165), and also, he encouraged his soldiers to fight against America and its president. He recited the classical Arab poetry the fighting horsemen, sword in hand. He said "Unsheathe your sword". (Bodansky 165) which means urging soldiers with courage to battle field.

He added nobody will be victorious unless he is a brave man. He concluded his speech stating that "Let Iraq live, long live jihad, and long live Palestine" (165). The Iraqi television and radio plays military music. The announcer read the brief message in Iraqi radio is as follows: "The sons of the great Iraq, the sons of the great leader Saddam Hussein, who will triumph, with god's help . . . Glory to the valiant men, the lions of Iraq the nation, the lions of Iraq of Saddam Hussein, the victorious heroic leader, and the bastion of jihad . . . Glory to you." (165) The American forces used advanced weapons in war with Iraq. They used automatic stealth bomber flights to destroy their targets in Iraq. Several navy ships are used to launch aircrafts and missiles, and submarines are used to launch missiles. Al – Udeid air base in Qatar was used by Americans to launch their Ariel bombers. The English army used B-52 Ariel bombers few over Israel to get in to Iraq from the west. The B-52 war crafts destroyed Iraq's air base near the gulf. The protective fence in the Iraq – Kuwait border was dismantled by U.S Marines. All the targets were automated control units for fibre optic communication. The leaflets were dropped from aircrafts over the capital of Iraq in order to alert the civilians from the terrific American attack. The message in the leaflets says that the civilians

should move away from Baghdad to safeguard their lives. The western Iraq was attacked by Americans using B-1 bombers. The American and British aircraft heavily blasted the southern regions of Iraq. They destroyed five key communication centres in southern and central Iraq. The American and British air forces combine together and bombed the artillery units supporting the Iraq forces. The sand storm reduced the speed of American and British forces. Helicopters were not used during the night because of heavy sand storm. Iraq was targeted from land, air, and sea. Seierstad says that the modern equipment's were used by Americans not only to throw away Saddam Hussein but also to put an end to the communication sector in Iraq, because the communication sector was controlled by the dictator himself.

Seierstad stays in the air-raid shelter. The air-raid shelter is filled with women and children. The hotel employees and bureaucrats brought their family here, because the American forces will not bomb a hotel full of western journalists. The president's palace was situated on the opposite bank of the river Tigris. By crawling on the balcony, she noticed the palace. The palace was targeted and bombed by the American aircrafts. The entire city is fired using aircrafts. The president's palace seems to be red in colour, because of the air strike on the palace. The oil fields in southern Iraq were also fired by the American forces. The bombs were used to destroy key targets in Iraq. Two air bases in western Iraq were seized by the American forces to protect Israel from Iraq. The Americans thought Iraq may use scud missiles against Israel, but no scud missiles were found. The Americans feared that the Iraq army may use chemical and biological weapons to attack them, but Saddam Hussein doesn't use any chemical or biological weapons. The American war planes used several bunker busting bombs to kill Saddam Hussein. Every night the massive blast is heard in and around Baghdad. Seierstad reported on the bombing of Iraq as follows: "An enormous explosion, one more, then several, not as last time like crashing thunderclaps on the horizon, but close by. The sky is lit up – from its colour it looks as if Baghdad must be burning.

One missile after other strikes on the other side of the Tigris . . . I heard the whine of fighter planes." (Seierstad 189). Iraq became the nation of conflict after Saddam Hussein became the president of the state. Iraq had border conflict with Iran which later resulted in Iran – Iraq war. Then the nation had conflict with other neighbouring country Kuwait. The wealth of Kuwait draws the attention of the dictator towards Kuwait. The wealth of Kuwait is

the oil resource. The world nations started buying oil from Kuwait. Most of the Iraq customers were shifted, because of the war with Iran. The world nations opposed the activity of Iraq. The invasion of Kuwait resulted in Persian Gulf War. The border between Iran and Iraq has been disputed tactfully for several centuries. Iran became the frequent rival for Iraq after the conquest of Ottoman Empire. Iran and Iraq, disagreed the precise border between them. The border became an issue after World War I, because Iraq became a separate state after the First World War. The area in which the river Shatt al Arab and its channel providing Iraq's outlet to the sea in the Persian Gulf area is the place which is responsible for the conflict. The two nations came to an agreement establishing a boundary that gave Iraqi control of the Shatt al Arab. After the agreement the condition became worst between the nations. Both the nations suffer for two reasons. The first reason, Iran is principally Persian whereas Iraq is predominantly Arabs. The northern region of Iraq had a majority of Kurdish people. The Kurds are neither Arab nor Persian. The Shia Muslims were the majority of population in Iraq. The second reason states that both the nations were politically unstable. The two nations often face revolution or coup. The Kurdish population rebelled against Iraq during 1970. Iran and several other countries supported the minority Kurdish people and they stirred conflict with in Iraq. The war between Iran and Iraq started in 1980. Both the countries accused each other of border violations and interfering in each other's internal affairs. The Iraqi troops invaded five hundred kilometres inside Iran. Plenty of Iraqi soldiers engaged in war with Iran. Iraq captured the southern border city of Iran called Khorramshahr; a city very rich in oil resource. Using the effective naval power Iran responded to Iraq. The situation proved that the power of both the nations were equal. The Iran government never accepted any negotiation with Iraq government, because the Iraqi military capture some parts of Iran and called for an agreement to end the war. This made Iran unhappy and they said they are not ready to stop the war. In 1982 the Iran forces were very active and pushed most of the Iraq forces out from Iranian soil and moved the Iraq soldiers to their own territory.

The Iran forces in their counter attack captured important city from the control of Iraq. The southern Iraqi city called Al Basrah, where the majority of Shias lived came under the control of Iran. In 1983 the armed forces of Iraqi army used poison gas against Iran troops. The Iran civilians were also targeted by the Iraqi forces. The Iraqi forces launched missiles against the Iran cities, and also, they bombed the oil installations. They attacked Iran port and damaged the ships. Iran

responded with the economic targets in Iraq. Iran sent massive number of old men, children, and sometimes women to fight against Iraq's well-equipped forces. The Iraqi forces slaughtered them easily with their modern equipment's. Both the Islamic nations abused each other for various reasons. Abusing is unlawful in Islam. The abusing factor leads to bloodshed. The nations never followed the basic principles in Islam. They never worried for the life of ordinary civilians in the state. Both the government indulged ordinary civilians to contribute in war for their nation. The usage of women and children in war is considered to be against the norms of the religion. Islam never says that the women should go to battlefield in order to fight for the victory of the nation. According to Islam, God created women as a companion to men, and to look after the family. The children's should not be used in war, but for the sake to prove the strength of the nation the rulers indulged children's in war. There is no justice prevailed between the nations. Both the nations had an aim towards victory. The Islamic nations failed to maintain peaceful relationship between them. The land became a major issue, which made them not to agree with one another. The life of nation depends upon justice. "If justice is excluded from the world, there would be a deluge of cruelty and brutality as would sweep of the foundation of social and political structure" (Shad 199), and he claims the main aim of Islam is to establish everlasting peace. The everlasting peace is impossible without justice. The two nations reacted without justice in the name of war. Mr. Rahman Shad speaks about the virtue of justice in his book Do's and Do Nots in Islam are as follows:

Justice is attributed to Allah. The principle of justice is to be adhered for the elimination of all sorts of oppressions and inequities lurking in the society. This virtue introduces balance in the life and makes one thing agree with the another and thus produces unity and harmony among the people. It is this principle which is responsible for beauty and proportion in every form of thought and action and it keeps together a society in proper bounds. (Shad 209) In August 1990 Iraq had a conflict with Kuwait. The conflict with Kuwait latter leads to Persian Gulf War. As a result of war Iraq lost most of its soldiers, and by the end of the war Iraqis were driven out of Kuwait. The international coalition forces lead by United States played a major part in the elimination of Iraqi soldiers from Kuwait.

Kuwait was once up on a time a part of Ottoman Empire. Kuwait became free independent state from the hands of British in 1961. Iraq claims

Kuwait as a part of Sothern Iraq, because it was a part of Ottoman Empire both Iraq and Kuwait were united and ruled by a single ruler. After the First World War British captured Kuwait and separated Kuwait from Iraq. There will be occasional clashes in the Iraq and Kuwait border. Always there was a tension between Iraq and Kuwait. The two countries improved their relationship, when Iraq had war with Iran. Kuwait offered loan to Iraq in order to support the neighbouring country during critical situation. After the end of war with Iran in 1988, the Iraq government launched the process of reconstruction. In 1990 the country faced huge debt, so they expected help from Kuwait in order to repay the debt. Iraq also accused Kuwait that the government was pumping oil from a field, which is common for both the nations. The problem here is Kuwait failed to share the revenue with Iraq was the charge imposed on Kuwait by the dictator Saddam Hussein.

Kuwait producing more oil than allowed under quotas set by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries was another charge imposed up on Kuwait by the Iraq government. Due to these reasons the oil price faced a great fall in the international market, and this made Iraq to suffer in exporting oil to other countries. The accusations against Kuwait grew and turned as a major conflict between the nations. In 1990 the Iraq army enlarged its fore near Kuwait border. The Kuwait government doesn't seek the help of Arab nations and other non-Arab nations for support, because the nation doesn't want to be a puppet in the hands of other nation. The Arab nations convinced Kuwait and Iraq to negotiate and compromise the tension between the states, but Iraq invaded Kuwait to loot the nation's wealth and develop the wealth of Iraq. The unprepared and inexperienced Kuwait forces were easily defeated by the well-armed and experienced Iraqi soldiers participated in Iran-Iraq war. The Kuwait military force was very less in number. The complete country and its capital were under the control of Iraq. The Iraq dictator installed a puppet government in Kuwait. He claimed that the Kuwait people were not happy with the rule of Sabah monarchy. The United Nations Security Council and the Arab league immediately condemned the invasion of Iraq. The U.N Security Council imposed an economic block on Iraq that prohibited all trade with Iraq. The puppet government exiled Sabah family from Kuwait. The Sabah family promised the democrats that if they return to Kuwait, they would restore constitutional rule and parliament. In response the democrats pledged to support the Sabah government which was in exile. The democrats with the unified leadership seek international support for an expulsion of Iraq. The Arab nations such as Egypt,

Syria, and the smaller states among Persian Gulf, feared that even if Iraq's conquest stopped at Kuwait, Iraq could still intimidate the rest of the region. A large number of international forces gathered in Saudi Arabia. The United States send four lakh troops and more than two lakh troops came from Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, France, Kuwait, Egypt, Syria, Senegal, Niger, morocco, Bangladesh, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain. The other nations contributed ships, air forces and medical units. Turkey allowed using its air bases on its territories. Germany and japan gave the financial support. The Iraqis argued that the United Nations never forced Israel to surrender the captured territories from the Islamic states during the six-day's war of 1967, and it claimed there are no rights for United Nations to force Iraq. The Iraqi government said that they might leave Kuwait if Israel withdrew from the occupied territories. Most of the Arab countries positively responded to Iraq's statement. The minority of American people opposed America's action towards Iraq's invasion. The American president said the UN resolution gave him the authority to use military force against Iraq. The American marines fired at Iraq positions in January 1991. The attack against Iraq started near the border between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The Iraq civilian life was disturbed by the American forces. The American army controlled the Iraqi ground forces through Ariel attack. The Iraqi ruler had no co – operation with the neighbouring countries like Iran, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. The dictator never gave importance to the ideas proposed by the neighbouring nations. He showed no sympathy towards his soldiers and civilians. Islam says "All members are required to serve each other for the common comfort and welfare of the society. The soldiers and civilians lost their life in war only because of Saddam Hussein. The unity among the Islamic states in the Gulf region became a question mark, because of the unexpected behavior of Saddam Hussein. Shad states, "Unity and brotherhood of all mankind is a fundamental concept of Islam. The Muslims have been exhorted to be kind and sympathetic towards one another.

Sympathetic cooperate with one another in righteousness and piety and do not cooperate in sin and aggression." (Shad 210). Åsne Seierstad noticed the sufferings of people and documented the emotions and thoughts of Iraqi people in her work *A Hundred and One Days*. The true characters in Iraq were spoken about the disaster happened during war. The names of the injured civilians in the book are real. The larger group of American soldiers landed in Iraq. The first U.S Air force c-130 landed at Baghdad international

Airport. The engineers repaired the runways. On the same day the Iraqis destroyed a bridge on the Tigris in the southern Baghdad in order to prevent the marines from crossing. There is a brutal fight between Baath militias, Arab mujahedin, Iraqi commanders, Fedayeen, and American soldiers. The injured civilians in the war were admitted in Baghdad hospital. Åsne Seierstad and other journalists visited the hospital and collected information about the attack on civilians. A young girl named Russul introduced her parents to the reporters. Her mother stood next to her, and her father was helplessly looking at her mother. He pulled the blanket away from his daughter's body. Here the disaster is in the form of wounds in her body. The chest and one of her arms are heartlessly damaged. The blood gushed out from her dressing. The father explains about the attack. He said his wife and children were on their way in to the house. On that day Russul was in a good mood, so she made a few dance steps, a banging sound heard suddenly. Then rest of the incident was continued by his son. He said "it was like a red ball flying through the air. It landed on the ground then exploded" (Seierstad 177). The mother said, she was lying in the pool of blood, but she was alive, and Russul remembers nothing about the incident. The unexpected event made her not to remember, because it was a shock for her. There was no car in the street, and no one came forward to help us, because the bombs may fall anytime from the sky. The life is precious for everyone. Then we visited our relatives house from there we hired a car and took Russul to hospital. Sadly, he says that his sister was carried to hospital with blood dripping from the injured part in her body. She was unable to move her body. When we are about to leave the room, she said good bye to us. Some boys in the Baghdad Street showed where the missile landed and exploded. The doors in the houses were full of marks caused by shrapnel. The fragments from the explosives damaged the entire street. The sad incident was Russul, because she was the only person affected by the shrapnel. This attack was performed by Iraqi army. The missile launched by Iraqi army failed to attack the American targets and exploded on the place where people live in groups. The American equipment's were targeted on a single person and they primarily aim on the respective targets, but not on the civilians of Iraq.

The civilians became victim during the war. People suffered from same injuries as they did in the last gulf war. The killing of civilians by its native forces was disclosed by the government, whereas the death of the military soldiers and their injuries were publically spoken by the government. During the war with America, the hospitals in Iraq were terribly damaged. The major responsible for the

destruction of Iraq falls on the head of Iraq itself. The missiles launched by Iraq failed to destroy the fixed target areas. Most of the missiles landed on the residential areas in Iraq. In the hospital a boy was admitted with severe injuries in his head and hands. The name of the injured boy is Ahmed. His hands and head were covered with white bandages. He wore a pyjama, which was later tarred in to pieces, due to the exploded particles from the missile. The shrapnel from the missile made injuries in his head and in hands. This incident happened when he was playing along with his sister in the street. The both were hit by the particles from the missile. She was also injured, a small cut behind the ear. He immediately became unconscious after the injury. For the past fifteen hours Ahmed never became conscious at least once. At the back of his head the metal fragments from the explosive missile got struck, and this was responsible for his unconsciousness. After fifteen hours the boy became conscious and moved his lips. Then he said something to his mother with running tears from his eyes. "I want to go home" (Seierstad 179). The boy was not satisfied to stay in hospital, because where ever he turns he finds people with injuries, and the suffering of pain is heard throughout the hospital. Most of the civilians lost their life because of the mortal wound. The loud screams and low moans were heard from the next room. The little girl named Warda was also affected by the shrapnel from the missile.

The loud screams were from her mouth. The twelve-year-old little girl was unable to tolerate the pain. The shrapnel damaged her leg, which was highly bleeding. The blood smelled throughout the hospital. It was very tough for the visitors to stay, because the hygienic condition of the hospital made the visitors to move away from the hospital. Warda's aunt named Hanan is suffering with pain, because her leg was shattered during the attack. She refused pain killer, because she was pregnant. She screams in pain. Her body was completely drenched with tears and sweat. "So much of pain, so much of pain, she cries" (179). The people in Iraq praised Saddam Hussein for no reason. The people had no proper vision towards the events happening in their country. In a prising tone, the nurses in the hospital sang the name of Saddam Hussein. Even the patients in the hospital praised the dictator. The director of the hospital accused Bush. During the interview, the people of Iraq identically supported the dictator. Though the people suffered during the rule of the dictator they blindly supported him, because the native people don't want other nation to interfere in the personal affairs of their state, but they failed to understand the fact that their nation never followed what they expect from other nation.

The dictator was captured on 13 December 2013, he was captured by American forces from a bunker in ad-Dawr near Tikrit. He was surrounded by American soldiers and the operation is named as Red Dawn. After his capture in December, he was transported to the air base near Tikrit. From there he was taken to the nearby American air base near Baghdad. His sons and grandson Mustapha were killed in three-hour gun fight with American army. The U.S administrator Paul Bremer on 14 December 2013 confirmed that Saddam Hussein was captured at a farm house in al- Dawr. He presented the video evidence to the reporters. The video confirmed that the dictator was under the custody of American soldiers. He was shown with full beard. The appearance is completely unfamiliar. The United States officials confirmed that the tyrant was in good health. Bremer told the reporters that the nation had several plans to put Saddam on trial. He was interrogated by the American FBI agent George Piro. Before the capture of Saddam Hussein, the special employees surrounded the dictator. The most important among them was Saddam's body guard Muhammad Hamis. He was also a blood relation to the dictator. On April 8, Saddam Abid Hamid, and Qusay moved from their hiding place. They were linked with group of body guards including Hamis, they rushed to the safe place in al-Jamra neighbourhood of Saddam city. They stayed there only for a couple of hours. Saddam confidently walk out of the house and talk to the people in the street. Then they shifted from al-Jamra to some other place, the place was not even able to identify even by his body guards. He stayed for ten hours in the newly shifted place. On April 9, around 4 A.M., Saddam and the two members left the safe house. They travelled in unremarkable cars. As they were nearing the neighbourhood place, they discovered several U.S military patrols most likely marines were roaming the area. The turn around and they made their way back to the al-Bamiya district. Saddam moved to Abu-Hanifa Mosque, because he believed that the American forces won't enter the Mosque in order to search him. He stayed in the masque for about half an hour. Then they moved to convoy. A car with few body guards followed Saddam closely. They went on six cars to little convoy. The other four cars were led by general Rashid. He was the chief among the body guards. Hamis was also in one of these cars. They stunned to see a U.S military column very close and they moved straight towards them. Saddam's car and the car behind him crossed the American soldiers and moved safely. "It was a very close call for Saddam Hussein" (Bodansky 239). General make sure the group that "the president got away safely. Now you guys go home" (239). Hamis was back to his home in Baghdad and from there he drove his

car to Tikrit and stayed there. Once again, he walked the streets of Baghdad. He interacted with adoring public promising victory. He also recorded his last television speech, but Iraqi television was unable to telecast it. His speech was mainly based on betrayal and revival. He often repeated the term "ghafla," (239), which means divine disappearance, occultation, before reappearance. On April 10, he was seen entering a mosque in the al- Azamiyah sector of Baghdad with Qusay and Hamid. The Baghdad crowd surrounded them and they also cheered them, but he was unable to address the crowd. This was the last confirmed public sighting of the dictator.

They moved from Baghdad to al-Dawdi. It is also a place which is almost close to Baghdad. He was now hiding in a small house in al- Dawdi. They stayed in the house for the next few days without coming out from the small house. On April 13, the three men suddenly decided to leave the house. Saddam called his body guards and bid them good-bye. Then he said "My regime is over. I know where I should be going. You guys go home now," (Bodansky 240). He gave five million Iraqi dinars to each of his body guards. After distributing money, they travelled in Mercedes Benz and drove away without informing anything about where they are going. He shifted from one place to another in order to safe guard his life from the searching American soldiers. After his arrest he was placed in Iraqi prison. In the Baghdad cell, he was allowed to read journals, and he bathed and slept there before his final days. Saddam Hussein was handed legally to Camp Cropper. He was handed along with the 11 other senior Ba'athist party leaders. A few weeks later he was charged for the crimes committed against the residents of Dujail in 1982. The charges include the murder of 148 peoples, and torture of women and children. On 5 November 2006, he was found guilty of crimes against humanity. And the verdict given was sentenced to death by hanging. His brothers were also convicted for the similar charges. The verdict against them was the same punishment given to Saddam Hussein. On 30 December 2006, he was hanged to death. The proceedings were carried out by the camp justice. The video evidence of the hanging of Saddam Hussein was recorded using a mobile phone. Saddam's body was stabbed six times after the execution. The last letter of Saddam Hussein

was released by his lawyers.

He begins the letter by praising his nation and the people of his state. He says that he was the brother and the leader of Iraqi people. And he raised a question to Iraqi people, he said this is how you want your brother, son or leader to be, and he claims himself to be fully qualified for the post of leadership. In this letter he gives valuable advice to his country people. He says people should not hate each other, because hate does not live a person to be fair and it makes you blind and closes all doors of thinking and it will keep away one from balanced thinking. And it won't allow one to make right decision at the right time. He tells his people to become an example of love, forgiveness and brotherly co-existence. He states that he is going to offer his sole to god as a sacrifice. If God likes me, then he will send me to heaven. Everyone should be patient and dependent on God. The people from my land should not hate the people of the other countries that attacked us. Among the arrogant people some are supported me and supported my struggle against the invaders. Some people wept and profusely said Good Bye to me. And he finally bids good bye to the people of Iraq. He said God is great, long live our nation, and long live our great struggling people. Long live Iraq, and long live Palestine, and jihad and the mujahedeen was the final words uttered by Saddam Hussein.

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