

**REGIONAL STRUCTURE  
OF  
KURDISTAN AREA ✓**

*A dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the degree of  
MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY*

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# I

## PREFACE

Kurdistan is an ethnic region par excellence and has been a constant irritation for the nation states which have carved out their boundaries across the territory. It is not a problem which confronts the present political syndrome but it has survived through many centuries and the factors responsible for its critical political situation are varied but categorically they are either transnational within the geographical milieu or exterior in character. Balancing the two, one would assert that the truly international forces and processes have played havoc in this case. Whether it was Ottoman sultans or the former Shahs of Iran, they acted at the behest of international agencies <sup>and</sup> ~~of~~ even the present political leadership of the three major constituting nation states have done so.

32° 20' N. to 39° 50' N.      39° 42' E to 48° 45' E.

Kurdistan (latitude and longitude) with its present geographical area of 284413 Sq. Km. and the total population of 9457240 (1975) cuts across Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Syria but in the present study only Syria is excluded for obvious reasons that Syrian territory is of marginal Kurdish nature. The present geographical delimitation is being done primarily on the basis of percentage population speaking Kurdish language as well as the supporting historical evidences. However, it has been a difficult question which forestalls any attempt for exact demarcation. Kurdistan as a political entity has never been a reality except for a very brief period of history.

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Kurdistan is a physiographic<sup>ally</sup> complex region with deep gorges, steep slopes, and narrow fertile plains in association with the harsh climate, varying from snow covered, frost-bitten north and north-west to the semi-arid tracts of south and south west. Primary activities dominate the economic fabrics of the region where the cultivation, both permanent and shifting holds a predominant position in terms of percentage distribution of population and the contribution to the Gross Domestic products. Animal husbandry is in much vogue and gives an unique character to the region and, the people. Minerals are few and limited except the recently discovered oil fields in Iraqi Kurdistan and they do not support a reasonable industrial base which accounts for its economic backwardness. Natural milieu and socio-political environment has been responsible for its backwardness.

The present study aims to study some of the vital aspects of the regional structure of Kurdistan but it remains to be still fulfilled as the data and information base is rather weak and unreliable. Even broad statistics issued from time to time by the three nation states is not available for a very long span of time. In the absence of any time series data pertaining to any aspect of its regional structure, the study cannot decipher any development trends of the region. Another significant hurdle has been the non-comparability of the data available. It is primarily because the three nation states with distinct and well-identified individualistic system. Further, it could be emphasised that all this data and information is available in three languages - Arabic, Turkish

### III

and Persian - which make it an enormous task of getting it rendered into English. The data in English is often published but that gives a very broad generalised picture.

Considering the basic difficulties of acquiring documents, maps, data and information at this place of working upon a dissertation, it could be rather explicit to add here that the application of statistical and quantitative techniques, which are now an essential ingredient of a geographical study, is rather difficult and therefore, inspite of the knowledge and awareness and ability to do so, it could not be done, and that too, rightly so. However, wherever it has been possible it has been done accordingly. Because of lack of comparability of data, both in terms of the geographical units and the point of time relating to the three nation states, the sophisticated cartographic techniques could not be applied. However, in the absence of such techniques, the gap is compensated by viewing and analysing the patterns, trends, processes and problems of the regional structure, objectively. Further, it should be made very clear that because of obvious reasons of data and information limitation, many such aspects like the question of regionalisation as well as analysis of transport network etc. are not tackled.

Therefore, one could add here that the scope of the present study could be all comprehensive but essentially it has turned out to be rather limited. This could only be

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expanded and systematised when one proceeds for the field study and visits these parts and conducts on spot inquiries. At the M.Phil. level, it is not feasible, partly due to the specified limited time and partly due to the system of sending the research students to the field for<sup>only</sup> the Ph.D. level study. This means all such lacunae would be looked after in the future when one has the chance to visit these areas.

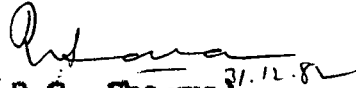
The subjectmatter of the present dissertation is divided into the following chapters, i.e., (1) Demarcation and Delimitation of the Area, (2) Geographical Frame-work (3) Kurdistan through Passage of Time, (4) Demographic aspect of Kurdistan and (6) Regional and International forces and Question of Autonomy. The text is supported with relevant and possible illustrations and tabular statements of the data.

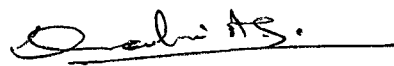
It is my privilege to acknowledge the help and guidance of Dr. R.C. Sharma, my official supervisor, who has taken lot of troubles for bringing the thesis in a presentable condition. The discussions with other scholars at the School of International studies, J.N.U. and at Sapru House and Teen Murti Libraries have been very fruitful and I am grateful to them.

I acknowledge my thanks to Dr. Salim Khan, Director of the Department of West Asian Studies, (AMU) for permitting to use the departmental library and librarian of Maulana Azad Library, Aligarh Muslim University. I also record my thanks to the Embassy of Iraq, Cultural Centre for providing valuable data and literature on Iraq.

I am grateful to my colleagues Mr. Barkatullah Khan and Mr. Damle for their cooperation. I thank Prof. S.M. Mandadhare and Prof. S.K. Therat for their constructive suggestions. I express my gratitude to my friends Mr. W.N. Gade, Mr. Pulzele and Mr. Pande who have helped me in several ways.

I am sure that the present study of Kurdistan Region would be <sup>of</sup> some relevance in understanding the various problems of this really enigmatic geographical entity which is Kurdistan.

  
(R.C. Sharma) <sup>31.12.82</sup>  
Supervisor.

  
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31st December, 1982,  
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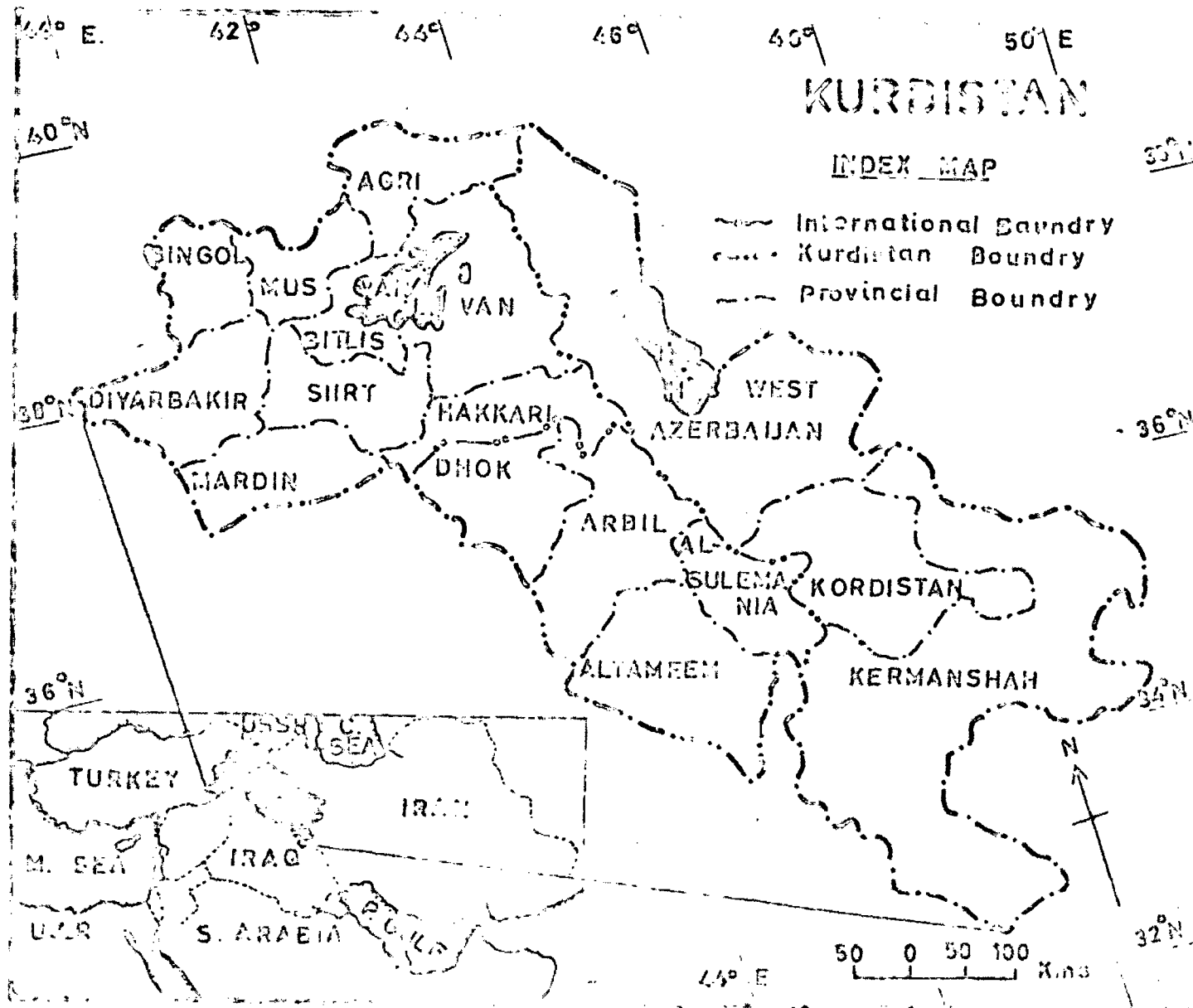
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CHAPTER I

DEMARCATON AND DELIMITATION OF THE AREA



DEMARCATIION AND DELIMITATION OF KURDISTAN AREA

**Historical and Political Extent :**

Kurdistan transcends political demarcation and stands as the unified cultural unit, mostly inhabited by the Kurds. They are the earliest settlers in this hilly region and there is no dearth of evidences, both archeological and historical, to support such a valid comment. The records of the early empires of Mesopotamia contain frequent references to the mountain tribes with names resembling 'Kurds'.<sup>1</sup> Sir Henry Rowlinson, a British scholar for the first time identified certain inscriptions regarding Kurti (Kurti or Kurtie), while describing in detail the land that covered east of the Lake Van stretching from south of the plain of ancient Assyria and gave definite idea about the extent of Kurd tribes.

It can be well established on the basis of folk tales that by the twenty fourth century B.C., there was a Kingdom of Gutium<sup>2</sup> having almost the same boundaries as present Kurdistan.<sup>3</sup> The clay tablets found in ancient Babylon, confirm the geographical location as well as the name given to the ancient

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1. 'The "Kurio uchi", who attacked Xenophon in 401 B.C. near modern Zakhu, Iraq, just south of Turkish border may have been Kuris". New Encyclopaedia Britanica 1971, Vol. V, p. 948.
2. Kingdom of Gutium: The heart of this Gutium Kingdom was the quadrilateral contained by the lower zeb, the Tigris, the hill of Suleimariya and the river Diyala. Their capital city lay in and around the town of Kirkuk named Arrepkha, in Campell R. Thomson 'The Cambridge Ancient History, Vol. III (London, 1970), p. 223.
3. Waheed, Sheikh A, The Kuris and their country, 2nd edn., (University Book Agency Lahore, Pakistan 1958), p. 45.

# HISTORICAL PLACES IN KURDISTAN



Fig. 2

Kurlistan country. In the time of great Armenian Emperor Tigranis the Great (91-55 B.C.), the Kurds living around Lake Van and Lake Urmia area were brought under their control. Kurdish country ruled by the King of Tortar (Turk), Arab or an Iranian but never by a Kurd itself.

Kurlish chiefs got some autonomy from the foreign rulers so that they can preserve their power over some areas and could restrict their power all over Azerbaijan province and established their Kingdom of Farkhin at about 32 kms. distance from Diyarbakar<sup>5</sup> and the great Marvanid dynasty of the Kurds ruled Farkin. Another Kingdom Qunduriji near Usnuh was founded by the Kurds.<sup>6</sup> Sulah-ud-Din was the Kurdish King and dominated area of Mosul, Amadia and Rawanduz - the classical nursery of the Kurds.

In the middle of the seventh century A.O., Kurds were converted to Islam. The Kurds accepted Islam much earlier than Iranians and remained the firm believers of the Sunni Sect.<sup>7</sup> However around Amelia, Arbil, in the hills of Northern Iraq and Rawanduz, there are tribes and villages of Kurds observing shia tenets. Aliolahis accepted Islam but all maintain rituals of

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4. Ibid, p. 55.
5. The Encyclopaedia of Islam, New Edition, (Leiden, E.J.Brill, 1981), Vol. V, Fascicules, 85-86, p. 439.
6. W.B. Fisher, (ed). The Cambridge History of Iran, Vol. I, (Cambridge University Press, 1968), p. 414.
7. Waheed Sheikh A., n.3, p. 55.

of their original religion.<sup>8</sup> Kurds living in the eastern Turkey are mostly Sunnis.

The last great Saldjukid (A.D. 1200) who created a Kurds' province with its capital called Bahar, to the north east of Hamadan. This province situated between Azarbayejan and Luristan included the regions of Hamadan, Dinawar, Kirmanshah and Senna to the east of the Zagros and to the west of the Shahrzur and Khuftiyan on the Zeb.<sup>9</sup> They were 16 centres, as enumerated by Hamad Allah Mustaufi (d-1349) in his Muzhat-al-Kubab.

The Turkish traveller Euliya Celebi (1482) in his Siyahat-name (iv, 74-5) enumerates 9 wilayets forming the then Kurlistan and they are Erzurum, Van, Hakkari, Diyarbakr, Djazira, Amadia, Mawsil, Sahahrazar, and Ardalan.<sup>10</sup> Kurlistan' as an unified area broke up due to the rivalries between the Ottoman Sultans and Shahs of Persia in 17th century A.D.<sup>11</sup> and Hamadan and Luristan were detached from Kurdistan.<sup>12</sup>

Geographical Demarcation of Kurdistan

Historical and political extent of Kurdistan does not coincide with its actual ethnic extent. While demarcating the boundary of Kurdistan, two main aspects are very important - the location of the Kurdish settlements and the presence of natural

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- 8. Ibid. p. 56.
- 9. The Encyclopaedia of Islam, n.5, p. 444.
- 10. Ibid. p. 440
- 11. 'In the 17th Century A.D. the Turkish administration gave no more than 3 liwas to the Wilayet of Kurlistan i.e. Darsim Mash and Diyarbakr, in return to Kurds for their help in wars against Persia'. in Ghassemieu A.R., Kurdistan and the Kurds, (Parque, 1965), p. 21.
- 12. Ibid - p. 46.



barriers which prevent majority of Kurds to spread out. According to Trotter (1878) the limit of their extent to the north was the line joining Divigi - Erzurum - Kars.<sup>13</sup> In the region of Erzurum, they are found especially to the east and the south-east. The Kurds also occupy the western slopes of Ararat in the districts of Kelgizman and Tuzluca.

They latter inhabit the north-west of Iran. Firstly in the provinces of Western Ararbayejan to the east of Lake Orumiyeh (Rezaiyeh), the districts of Maku, Ketur, Shahpur and to the south of the Lake, Mahabad (ex-Subla); in the province of Ardalan, an essential part of Kurlistan, whose capital is Senna or Sananda, the districts of Bukan, Sakkiz, Sarlasht, Bana, Bijar (Garras), Meriwan and Hawraman; and the parts of the province of Kirmanshah and Kasr-i-Shirin.<sup>14</sup> (See Map No.2). Isolated groups of Kurds are found in Khurasan, Budjnurd and in Pars and Kirman. In Syria, Kurdish area extends upto the upper plain of khabar river.

The Kurdish area in Turkey in association with the left bank of Euphrates river, forms the west boundary of Urfa province to the Mount Ararat upto the north province of Kar. Karasu-Aras mountain trending north-west to south-west along with Perisuya

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13. The Encyclopaedia of Islam, n.5, p. 456.

14. 'The Encyclopaedia of Islam', n.5, p. 439. The Kurds live in the cities such as Tabriz and on the outskirts of Tehran (Brugsch, Reise ii 496) are not mentioned as they are isolated in occurrence. Much further to the east and outside Iran an important Kurdish tribes is to be found in Baluchistan.

river, a tributary of Euphrates, further strengthened the natural barriers from the other parts inhabited by non-Kurdish people and put the limit to Kurdish settlements. As regards the geographical extent, there is lack of unanimity, e.g., Encyclopaedia of Britanica estimates the length of Kurdistan as 960 kms (600 miles) and breadth 240 kms (150 miles). The Kams-al-alam (Istanbul 1896) concerned with Kurdish wilayats of the Ottoman empire mentioned its length upto 1480 kms (900 miles) and breadth between 160 kms (100 miles) to 320 kms (200 miles)<sup>15</sup>

Kurdistan as the unified territory never remained intact throughout the history. Its fate always brings on the ebb and tide of the ruling monarchs in Iran, Turkey, Iraq and Syria. Divisions of Kurdish area has been made at different times. Kurdistan divided between Turkish and Persian empires in 1639, as a result of agreement between Shah Abbas and the Ottoman Sultan Murad IV.<sup>16</sup> This treaty was a follow up final result of the constant war like situation between Iran and Turkey. Safavids denied offer from Kurdish chieftains to help in war and imprisoned the Kurdish Chieftains. Taking advantage of this opportunity, Ottoman Sultan Salim instigated Sunni Kurds against Safavids, North-west of Lake Urmia.

Further divisions of Kurdish territory as parts of Iraq Syria and Turkey have been made by European imperialist powers. It was essential as a strategy to control Kurds. A secret treat between Britain and France, known as 'Sykes-Picot' - after

15. Ibid. p. 458.

16. Chassemlou A.R., n. 11, p. 37.

the name of the foreign Ministers of Britain and France - divided the entire vast territory of the former Ottoman Empire into the British and French zones. The British "red" zone included parts mainly of Mesopotamia (Iraq) extending from Khanekin in the north. Southward beyond Kuwait, the 'blue' French zone consisted chiefly of the territories of present day Syria and Lebanon and south-eastern part of Turkey.

The final demarcation of Turkish-Iraq boundary took place in 1926.<sup>17</sup> Mesul a famous oil field separated from the Turkish Kurdistan and joined to Iraq. Moreover these imperialist powers wanted to create Kurdistan as a separate state, but, they having secured their concession for oil, subsequently lost their interest of creating a Kurdish separate state.<sup>18</sup>

Administratively and politically the total expanse of Kurdish area is under Kurdish areas belonging to these countries do not have well defined unity with the rest of the adjoining areas. This leaves this ethnically unified but otherwise divided as the problem area for itself as well as the neighbouring territories of the countries of Iran, Iraq and Turkey. The plight of Kurds stands further accentuated with no recognition of either their physical or spatial existence. It is strange to note here that the countries like Turkey do not have official mention of Kurdish area in the various documents and official monographs, the people are described as a 'Mountain Turks'.

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17. Ghassemlou, A.R., n. 11, p. 70.

18. Ibid. . p. 263.

The literature and information base for demarcating this area is rather limited and, therefore, one cannot place exact socio-cultural boundaries of Kurdish area. Exact demarcation is rather difficult to be achieved but a fair idea is given in the form of the map. The map showing the extent of Kurdish Area is further tailored on the basis of administrative subdivisions of these countries. This has been done because of the convenience of the collection of the data and information and which could be further represented on the map (See map No.1).

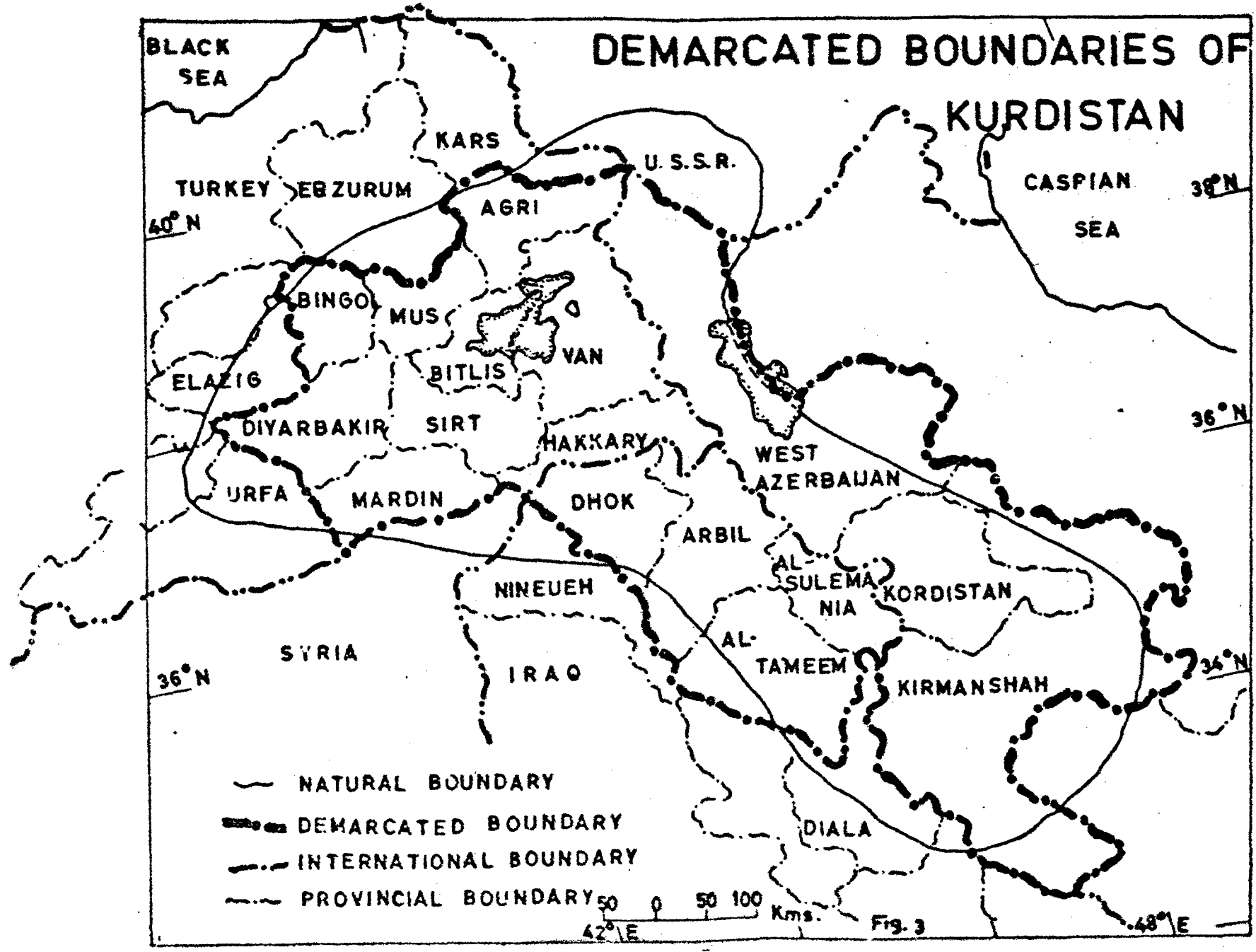
In Iraq, the Kurds occupy the north and north-east of the country in the provinces of Dihok, recently detached from the province of Mowsil, the Nahiyas or districts of Zakho, Mazuri-Djer, Amadia and Akra. The areas in the provinces of Kirkuk, Arbil and in the province of Diyala, the Nahiyas of Khanakin and Mandali, are adjacent to the Kurds of Iran essentially to the west of the Zagros. However, the Kurds are equally numerous in Baghdad and Mawsil. In Syria the Kurd Dagh area is prominently Kurdish in nature.

In the north, the Lake Seroun (USSR) and in the east Lake Orumiyeh are the limits for the Kurdish settlements. In the south-east of Lake Orumiyeh the famous Kurdish Kingdom of Mahabad<sup>19</sup> was upto Miendau and Schahin Dosh towns situated on the rivers draining into Lake Orumiyeh.

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19. Kingdom of Mahabad was an area with long tradition of Kurdish nationalism. In 1941 after loss of Rezaiyeh power in Persia the Mahabad area was occupied neither by Britain nor America nor by the Soviet Union. In September, 1942 seizing an exceptionally favourable opportunity to the Kurdish Mahabad launched the first Kurdish political movement, the Memala J.K. (Jaihi Kurdistan, Rebirth of Kurdistan) - in Chaliand Gerand People Without a Country, (Zed Press, London 1980), p. 118.

# DEMARCATED BOUNDARIES OF KURDISTAN



- NATURAL BOUNDARY
- DEMARCATED BOUNDARY
- ..... INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY
- PROVINCIAL BOUNDARY

50 0 50 100 Kms.

Fig. 3

On the east some volcanic eruptions resulting into relatively high areas have put the limit for the Kurdish population. Zagros mountain put certain limit to the Kurdish settlements in the eastern side, e.g. Kurdish villages situated upto the eastern foot hills and in the south-east Kuh-e-Garra and Kuh-e-Safid hills can be taken as a limit.

In south-west the historical Kingdom of Gutium boundary can be taken as a limit which is further enforced by the two prominent natural barriers, one is the river Dyala and the long hill named the Jabalhamin area. In essence it remains more or less the same.<sup>20</sup>

Following the above criteria there are nine eastern provinces of Turkey in the Kurdistan area e.i. (1) Agri, (2) Van (3) Mus (4) Bingol (5) Bittis (6) Diyarbakir (7) Siirt (8) Mardian (9) Hakiari; four northern provinces of Iraq e.i. (1) Dihok (2) Arbil (3) Al-Suleimaniya (4) Kirkuk and three western provinces of Iran e.i. (1) West-Azarbayejan (2) Korlistan (3) Kermanshah (See Map No. 1). However, the Kurdish area in Syria and the U.S.S.R. is not considered as Kurds are just in unnoticed minority and further it is difficult to get information.

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20. Demarcation of Kurdistan boundary adjusted with the provincial boundaries using simple criterion s.d. (a) If more than fifty per cent population of province is Kurdish, then that province is included in Kurdistan (b) If more than fifty per cent area of the province having historical evidences of Kurdish territory with a considerable percentage of Kurdish population is included in the Kurdish area. Applying this criteria some areas essentially Kurdistan are being detached and some non-Kurdish area are being attached to the present study area. However, this does not distort the characteristic Kurdish region.

Provincial-wise area and population and its percentages in respected States of Kurdish Demarcated Area

| Name of the Province and nation | Area in Sq.Kms.         | Population              | Percentages of area to area of Turkey<br>Iran<br>Iraq | Percentage of population to the total population of Turkey<br>Iraq<br>Iran |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|
| <b><u>TURKEY</u></b>            | <b><u>106,163</u></b>   | <b><u>3,188,586</u></b> | <b><u>13.18</u></b>                                   | <b><u>7.70</u></b>   |
| 1. Agri                         | 11,458                  | 330,201                 | 1.42  | 0.82   |
| 2. Bingol                       | 8,911                   | 210,804                 | 1.11  | 0.52   |
| 3. Bittis                       | 6,674                   | 318,305                 | 0.83  | 0.79   |
| 4. Diyarbakir                   | 15,400                  | 651,233                 | 1.91  | 1.61   |
| 5. Hakkari                      | 9,885                   | 126,036                 | 1.23  | 0.31   |
| 6. Mardin                       | 12,879                  | 519,687                 | 1.60  | 1.29   |
| 7. Mus                          | 8,697                   | 267,203                 | 1.08  | 0.66   |
| 8. Siirt                        | 12,462                  | 381,503                 | 1.55  | 0.95   |
| 9. Van                          | 19,797                  | 386,314                 | 2.46  | 0.96   |
| <b><u>IRAN</u></b>              | <b><u>135,540</u></b>   | <b><u>4,463,654</u></b> | <b><u>7.98</u></b>                                    | <b><u>13.24</u></b>  |
| 1. West-Azərbaycan              | 43,660                  | 1,407,604               | 2.65  | 4.18   |
| 2. Kermanshah                   | 62,882.5                | 2,261,760               | 3.82  | 6.71   |
| 3. Kordestan                    | 24,998                  | 794,290                 | 1.52  | 2.36   |
| <b><u>IRAQ</u></b>              | <b><u>46,710</u></b>    | <b><u>1805,000</u></b>  | <b><u>10.79</u></b>                                   | <b><u>15.68</u></b>  |
| 1. Al-Tameem                    | 9,426                   | 439,000                 | 2.15  | 3.82   |
| 2. D'hek                        | 6,374                   | 217,000                 | 1.45  | 1.89   |
| 3. Arbil                        | 14,428                  | 493,000                 | 3.29  | 4.29   |
| 4. Al-Sulemaniyah               | 16,482                  | 656,000                 | 3.76  | 5.70   |
| <b><u>KURDISTAN TOTAL</u></b>   | <b><u>288,413.5</u></b> | <b><u>7457,240</u></b>  | <b><u>10.65</u></b>                                   | <b><u>14.77</u></b>  |

- SOURCES:**
1. Statistical Year Book of Turkey-1979 (Prime Ministry State Institute of Statistics, Ankara, 1979), Pub.No. 890.
  2. National Census of Population and Housing, November, 1979 (Statistical Centre of Iran, 1981), Serial No. 186.
  3. Annual Abstract of Statistics, 1976, Republic of Iraq, Ministry of Planning, Central Statistical Organisation.

The study area has certain amount of ambiguity in the absence of exact information, which is not available in India. Because of its strategic location vis-a-vis the three countries, traditionally never on long friendly terms, the exact information may not be freely available there too. Historically and ethnically, it is and it has been a Kurdish region and should be studied as a whole and then only one can develop correct perspectives on its problems and prospects of development. Then only one arrives at a conclusion whether it has been the imperialist blunder thwarting any development plan.

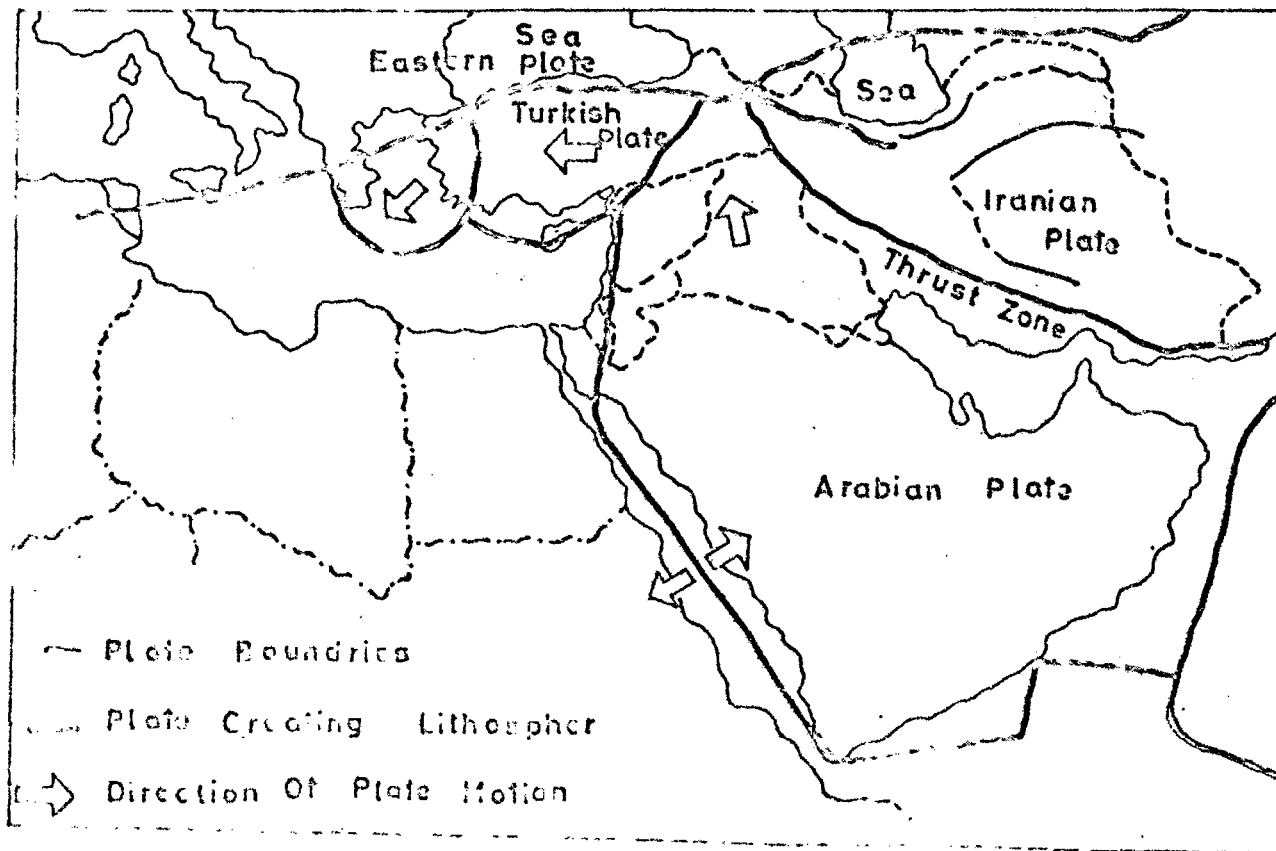


**CHAPTER II**

**GEOGRAPHICAL FRAME WORK**

# KURDISTAN

## TECTONIC PLATES



Source: Beaumont P. (London 1973)

Fig. 4.

GEOGRAPHICAL FRAMEWORK

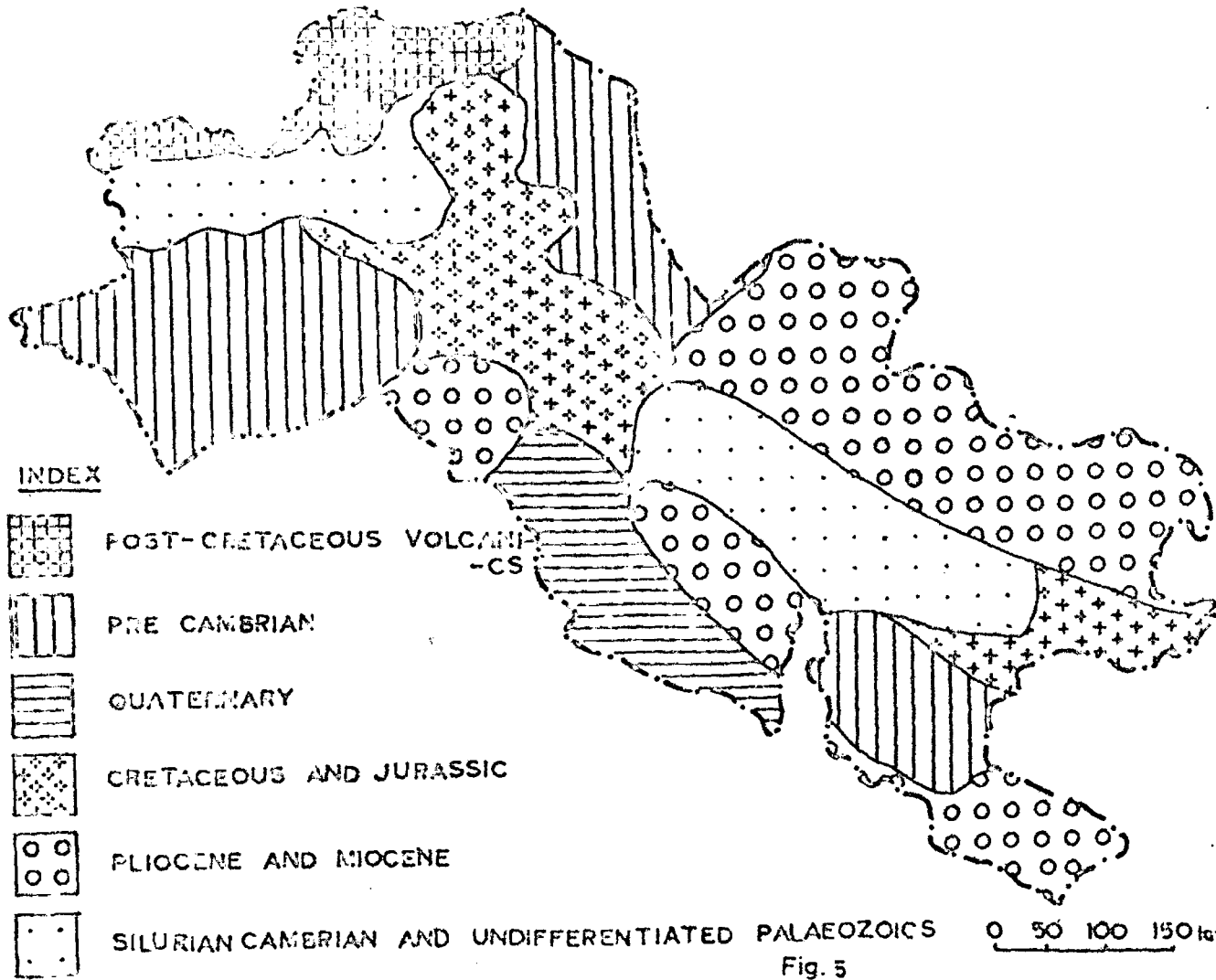
The physical landscape and the geological structure is of utmost interest to explain the various aspects of Kurdistan and its people. Geologically, Kurdistan area is very much complex where different continental plates have come into contact. Northern part of Kurdistan is a focal point of the tectonic movement which affected the northern rims of the Middle East region. Result of these movements is the creation of present mountain ranges e.g. Zagros, Taurus, Pantus and Elburz and associated landscapes.

Almost whole of Kurdistan is covered by Arabian plate except some parts of Iranian Kurdistan (See Figure No. 4). The northern part of Kurdistan is covered by narrow Anadolian fold. The Zagros region continued sedimentation upto the late tertiary times, when it was folded into a series of parallel anticlines and synclines.<sup>1</sup> A considerable igneous and metamorphic activity can be identified in these provinces of southern Iran. Rezaiyah-Efandeghan Orogenic belt runs parallel to the Zagros mountains and then further west it unites with Taurus belt of Turkey. It is separated from Zagros mountains by Zagros crash zone, an area of great thrusts and faults. The end product of all this is that Kurdistan region has a very complex physical personality giving distinctiveness of having well identified areas of isolation with the rest of the neighbouring tracts. This in turn resulted into socio-ethnically detached areas with least external influences.

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1. Takin, H., "Iranian Geology and Continental Drift in the Middle East". (The Hague, 1972) pp. 114-15.

# GEOLOGY OF KURDISTAN



A characteristic feature of the region is the widespread occurrence of volcanic rocks, chiefly basalts. They are found associated with zones of structural weakness, especially in the highland zone of Armenia (Turkey) and Zagros (Iran). Perfectly round volcanic peaks from which lava had previously radiated, are seen in Mount Ararat and Mount Demavand. It has been the tectonically an instable zone where the earth-quakes with their epicentres along the major plate boundaries are of common occurrence. This has considerable impact on man's life here.

Distribution of different types of rocks are as follows (See Figure No. 5).<sup>2</sup> The post cretaceous volcanic formations are found in north-western part of the region whereas the pre-combrian rocks are found in the southern Turkish area, the northern part of Mahabad province and the south-western parts of Kurdistan. Quaternary rocks are mostly confined to the southern part of Tigris river basin, where the Pliocene and Miocene are found in Dihok and North part of Kirkuk provinces of Iraq and also in the south Mahabad, north Kurdistan and Kirmanshah provinces of Iran. Cretaceous and Jurassic rocks are mainly found in the highlands of Armenia; the Silurian, Combrian and undifferentiated Palaeozoics can be observed in the valley of Murat and lower hills of Zagros.

In Iranian part of Kurdistan, Mesozoic limestone and marble make up a large proportion of the outcrop.<sup>3</sup> Some of the

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2. Geological map of Kurdistan is drawn on the basis of Geological map of Middle East published by Oxford University Press and reproduced in 'The Middle East - A Geographical Study' by Peter Beaumont, (London, 1976), p. 24.
3. Ibid., p. 141.

calcareous sediments here, have wielded tremendous importance in the economic life of the region as they are frequently the beds of oil reserves, e.g., Asmari limestone of Iran is the most important reservoir rock for the petroleum.<sup>4</sup>

Geologically Kurdistan is not endowed with ample mineral resources. Energy resources are poor and same is true of basic minerals which could give industrial prosperity to the region. Therefore, one can not think or prescribe any sizeable industrial development in the region. This is further circumscribed due to the difficult terrain affording any good network of transport and communication.

#### Physiography:

Kurdistan is a very much complicated mountaineous region. Sheikh A. Waheed in his book 'Kurds and their country', described the geographical details of Kurdish country by confining into four main parts.<sup>5</sup>

- (i) East and south east Turkey
- (ii) West and south-west Iran.
- (iii) North, North-east and north-west Iraq.
- (iv) North-east Syria.

Physiographic units of Kurdistan area can be described in four main region as follows:-

4. Ibid., P.112.

5. Sheikh A. Waheed, Kurds and their Country (Lahore ; University Book Agency, 1958), p.22

# RELIEF

## INDEX

ALTITUDE IN METRES



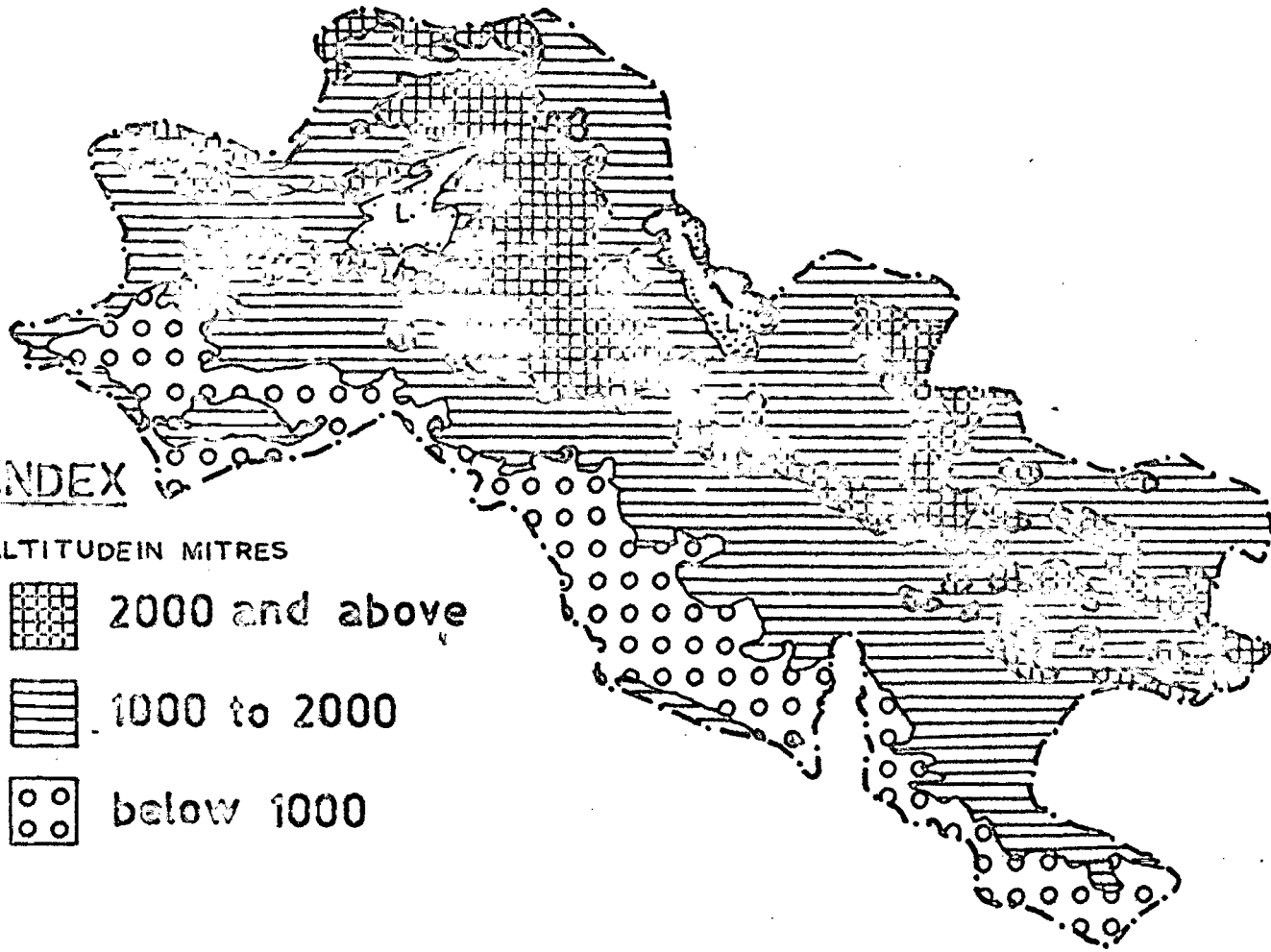
2000 and above



1000 to 2000



below 1000



0 50 100 150 kms

Fig. 6

- (i) Northern high lands
- (ii) Zagros Mountain Ranges.
- (iii) The high plains of Lake Urmia
- (iv) The Tigris river basin.

They are based on relief areal differentiation and are not subject to man-made political boundaries and therefore the analysis is somewhat different to S.A. Waheed's scheme. The present Scheme conforms to the basic physiographic broad spectrum as well as it fits well in the well accepted regionalization format.

(I) Northern High Lands:

This region consists of a very wide high land plateau (see figure No. 6) with a series of continuous mountain ranges. There are numerous narrow valleys where the process of erosion is very strong and fast. River Murat catchment area and Lake Van are important physiographic features. The lake like features are widespread and primarily due to the blocking of the valleys as result of consolidation of lava, emitted during the past volcanic activities. It is highly dissected landscape with limited cultivated patches and scattered-well perched settlements. The highlands are divided into several sub-divisions as described in the following pages.

(a) High Plateau of Anatolia: The plateau is more than 2000 m. in altitude. It was formed probably during Tertiary period.<sup>6</sup> The younger sediments had formed between and overlapped into the ancient and stable continental plateforms..

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6. Beaumont Peter and others, The Middle East: A Geographical Study (London, 1976), p.22.



# KURDISTAN

## PHYSIOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS

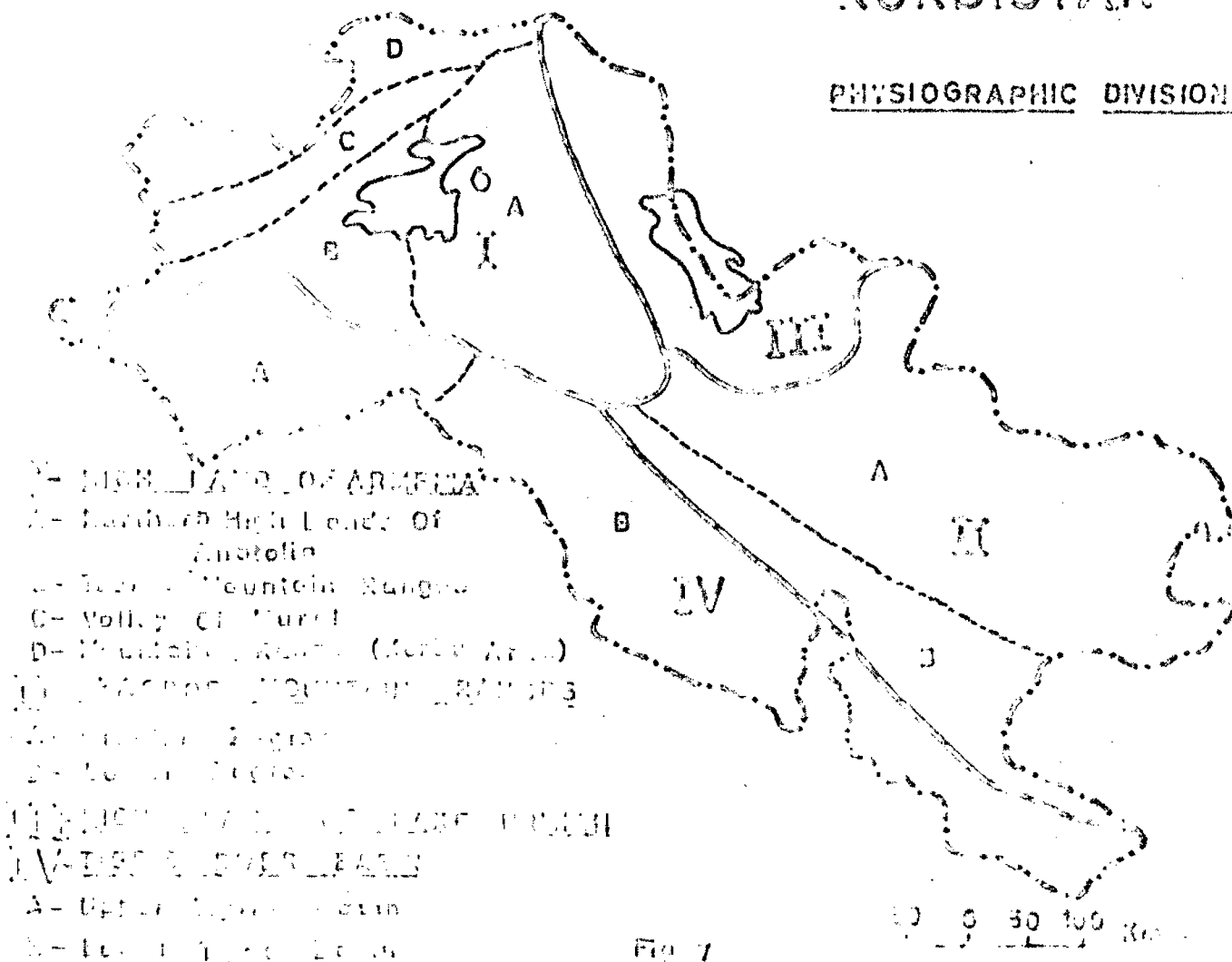


FIG. 7

The plateau is a focal point of t<sup>c</sup>tertonic movements (See figure No. 4) where the four great mountains are connected e.i. Zagros, Taurus, Pontus and Elburz.

On the both side of the plateau, Lake Van in the west and Lake Urmia in the East side are situated. The eastern slope of plateau where the fertile plains of Urmia are formed is more steep than the west. Northern part of the plateau is occupied by Murathasi mountain and Ala range, trending from north-east to south-west. Tenduruk range lies in the west and the rivers Dali and Bendimahi flow here. The soil layers in this area are very thin and low in fertility. The mountaineous character of the area is typically least populated. Prominent hills in the area are Aktas range with high peak of 2034 m. and is on the Turkish-Iranian border. Among others are Pirrasite range having Nizur Beg Pass, Ahta range and Kuh range on the west and Gurubol, ke-e-Zaki, Hirabit, Haravil, Soratap and Mor in the east.

The southern part of the plateau is again more fragmented by the river Zeb and its tributaries. This part is having more peaks and comparatively higher than the northern plateau. Spiriz range runs in north-south direction with its more complex features, like high Kara (3630 m.) and Baskale (3250 m) peaks. Cile range is isolated from the main plateau due to the small Nehil river a tributary of Zeb. In this part, too, there are deep gorges making it highly dissected and uneven part of Kurdistan area.

(b) Taurus Mountain Ranges :

In the south and west side of Lake Van, the mountain ranges lie between  $47^{\circ}\text{E}$  to  $43^{\circ}\text{E}$  longitudes and have an average height of more than 2000 m. The direction of these ranges is

south-east to north-west. The high-peak features, for example Mount Nemrut and Mount Suphan (4434 m) are created due to the volcanic eruptions,<sup>7</sup> as well as the small lakes of Naurat, Mosik and Hachi.

Taurus mountain ranges probably have been formed in the Silurian, Cambrian and undifferentiated palaeozoics<sup>8</sup> and their total length is approximately 380 Kms and the width between 50 and 60 kms. This area stands separated from the main Armenian plateau by Nerduz river valley. There are two mountain peaks - Artos (3475 m) and the peak at Kukus village (3450 m). The valley of Garzan divides Kanbos and Sira mountain areas. Other prominent ranges are Harkus, Catela and Sasyekaan.

Lake Van is a special geographical feature of this area, it is 1720 m. high from the sea level and is formed due to volcanic activity. The length of the lake is 125 kms and width 40 kms. Geologically, it belongs to Silurian, Cambrian and undifferentiated palaeozoics times.<sup>9</sup> It commands the water system of river Ziban, Deli, Bendimahi in the north and river Karu, Micinger in the east. The water at lake Van is less saline than those of lake Urmia, but contain a high proportion of sodium carbonate.<sup>10</sup> The lake Van region once supported a moderately

7. Fisher, W.B., The Middle East: A Physical Social and Regional Geography; 7th edn. (London, 1978). p. 325.

8. Beaumont Peter and others, n.6, p. 24.

9. Fisher, W.B., n.7, p.313.

10. Ibid, p. 315.

dense population and the cultivation has been confined to the banks.

(c) The Valley of Murat : is a very prominent feature. It flows in an area with an elevation of 1000 to 200 m. and comes down to meet the Euphrates river system (See figure 1 to 7). It has four small rivers-Guzel, Heronek and Baskan on the right and Kora on the left. The length of the Murat valley is nearly 220 kms. and width upto 40 to 60 kms. In Mus province, Murat has good alluvial deposits and therefore cultivation is quite significant, supporting a high population density.

(d) Korsu - Aras Mountain Ranges :

These ranges run from Mount Ararat a famous volcanic peak 5165 m. high to the west direction with a little bend towards south to Kol river. Karasu Aras mountain ranges are date back to the post-Cretaceous period with lot of volcanic activities. These mountains have varying thickness, as they are thinner at Kol valley and very broad at Kakmark range, having some peaks more than 2000 m. high. There are deep gerge like features, making the area highly dissected and useless for any significant human activity. The river Elmati is a very deep valley separating the Harhal and Seytan ranges and river Gunuk separates Senuffedin range from Seytan.

(II) Zagros Mountain Ranges :

In South and South-east part of Kurdistan area, the Zagros mountains with all their complexities dominate the landscape. The Greater Zagros with more than 2000 m. height and 1000 to 2000 m complex folds alongwith the lower Zagros with normal folds form the characteristic features.

Geologically, it is a very complex mountain system with pliocene and eocene deposits. It had tectonic activities in the past and still it suffers with earthquakes. It is rich in petroleum resources. Akhatari and Sanandaj area is eminently silurian and cambrian in formation<sup>11</sup> where as Sunbulakuh area is pre-cambrian and the southern part is again pliocene and jurassic in formation.

(a) Greater Zagros:

These ranges lie in the direction of North-west to south-east. On the coast of Lake Urmia an isolated volcanic peak Sahand stands at the height of 3700 m. and has affected the drainage pattern around this lake. Another high land plateau is known as Kurch Deh. Almost the whole area of Kurdistan Province in Iran occupied by this plateau (See figure No.6). This plateau gives rise to Tatvi and Zaruneh rivers joining Urmia lake. Southward the plateau has many overlapping mountain ranges and high peaks, thus controlling the pattern of the river Dezel Owzan. Extreme south a little part of Safid range can be seen here. However, around the Lake a lower altitude plain area upto Khamsch ranges occurs.

(b) Lower Zagros :

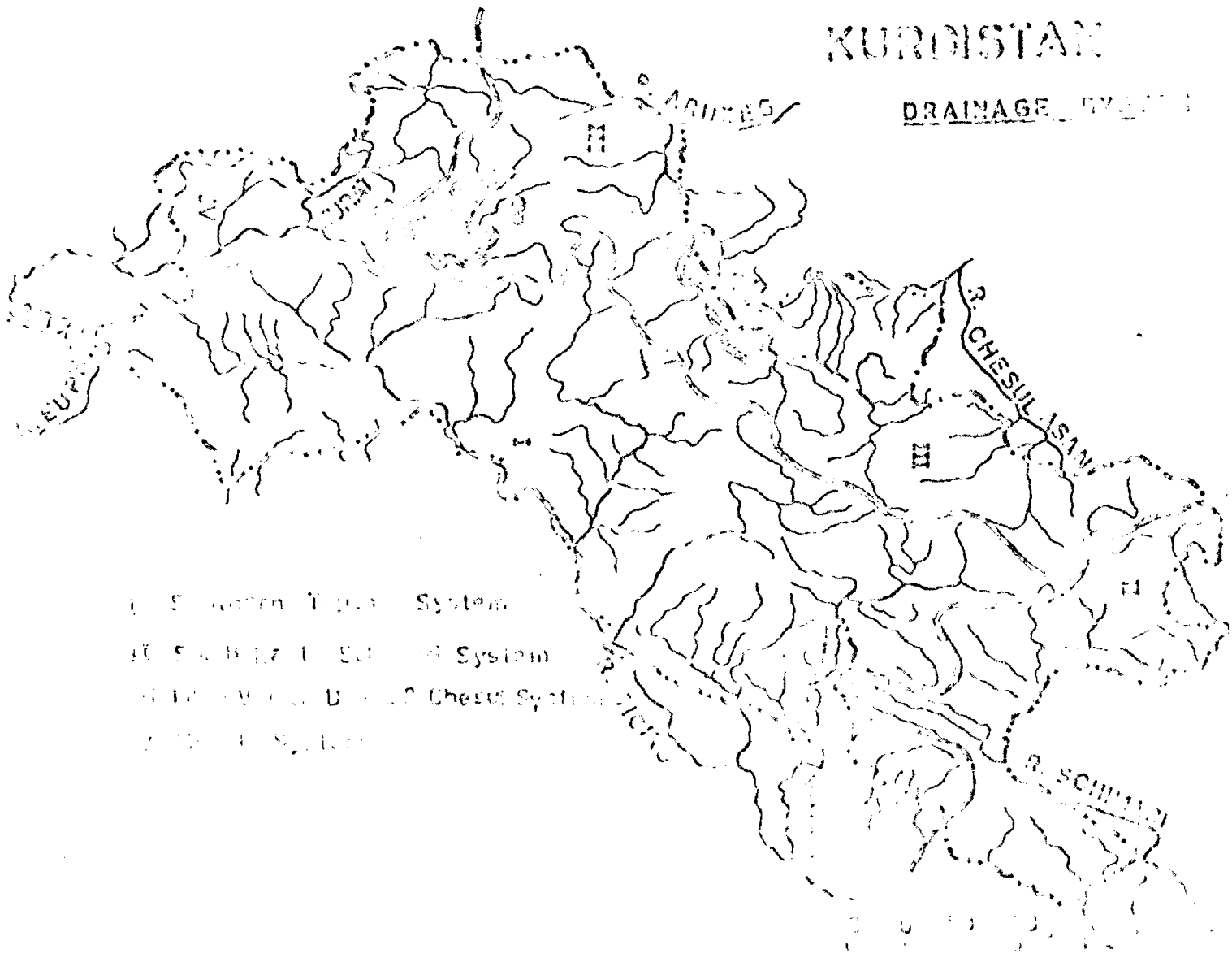
South-west side of the Greater Zagros, the Lower Zagros mountain ranges slope down southward. These ranges start from the Armenian plateau, upto the boundary of Kirmanshah province of the south. These ranges structurally have normal foldings at 1000 to 2000 m. altitude. The mountain ranges run almost parallel in the north-west to south-east direction. A famous

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11. Fisher W.B. (ed.), The Cambridge History of Iran ; Land and People, Vol. I, (London : Cambridge University Press, 1968), p. 112.

# KURDISTAN

## DRAINAGE SYSTEMS



- I. S. Western Tigris System
- II. S. W. Tigris System
- III. W. U. Chesil System
- IV. S. E. System

Rewardus pass is on the boundary of Iran and Iraq. A small lake Halabja is located here. In these lesser Zagros, we find some mountain peaks in Iraqi Kurdistan, for example Sunbula, Kabir and Resht-e-Kuh. A special feature of the area is that there are fertile valleys important for cultivation.

(III) High Plain of Lake Urmia :

The eastern side of Armenian plateau has a very steep slope giving rise to the plains of <sup>Lake</sup> Urmia. Inland Drainage from the surrounding mountains brings water to the lake Urmia as well as different grades of alluvial non-saline alluvial deposition occurs on the west and saline deposition is on the south side of the lake.

Lake Urmia is shallow sheet at water lying at 1296 m (4250 feet) above sea level and measuring very approximately 144.6 kms by 48.2 kms (ninety miles by thirty miles). In rainy season, it is 24 m to 32 m (15 to 20 feet) deep, but it shrinks to a small lake. There is plain area in north and south sides of lake but on the western side, it has steep landscape. Geologically, southern part of plain is Cretaceous and Jurassic and north and western parts pre-cambrian period.<sup>12</sup> Salt lakes are formed in the south by river Terteru, and Qudar. River Boranduz and Maslu flow from the west, where we also find cultivated land and pastures, supporting a high density in this part.

(IV) The Tigris River Basin :

River Tigris is the main and important river of this area almost all tributaries of Tigris rise and flow in Kurdish area. River Tigris rises from Lake Hazar in the southern

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Turkey (See Figure No. 8). Physiographically, Tigris basin can be divided into two parts : (i) Upper Tigris Basin, and (ii) Lower Tigris Basin.

(a) Upper Tigris Basin : Upper Tigris Basin is between 300 and 1000 m. altitude and geologically it belongs to the Cambrian times. Diyarbakir, a provincial capital town, is the central point of this geographical unit, where north and south slopes come into contact. Surrounding area of Diyarbakir is well fertile plain. Tributaries from all sides come in and join the Tigris.

Diyarbakir area topographically is much less rugged, however, the plateau surface remains dissected and therefore, the cultivated land is limited. Availability of water, decide the nature of cultivation, however, it has remained a primarily a live-stock pastoral area.

The main rivers of upper basin are Zulkar, Anbur, Askar, Batman, Sason, Gurzan, Guzol, Suhtan, Mezil, Khabar and all have come out from the Taurus mountain and the Great high land of Armenia. Due to Mazi and Midyat hills, the river Tigris flows toward east direction and directly enters into Iraq.

(b) Lower Tigris Basin : Tigris comes down at 500 m. altitude, while entering into Iraq. In Iraqi Kurdistan Tigris flow in south-east direction and the Greater Zeb and the lesser Zeb are its main tributaries. There are numerous fertile alluvial fans created by these descending tributaries. Practically all these tributaries alongwith Tigris are considerably exploited for irrigation purpose, for example dam at Mosul on Tigris and several others. In the south, altitude of Tigris plain is only



200 m. except hills of Jabal Makhul and Jabal Hamosin (See figure No.6) which forms as the natural limit of the Kurdish area. Near Kirkuk, Baba Gurgur and Jabal Qarachaq hills have very rich oil deposits of international importance. Further south, the river Diyala makes a vast fertile plain supporting good cultivation and dense population in this area.

Physiographic details of Kurdish region are rather too pronounced to support any sizeable economic activity covering the whole tract except isolated patches of cultivated rich fields interspersed between the slopes and the narrow winding river valleys. However, the dissected topography gives strategic location to the Kurdish settlements for on-going revolt against the ~~mix~~ central authority for trying for autonomy. Most of the settlements are perched on top or on the strategically advantageous locations. Physiography does not permit any balanced network of transport and communication. Geologically, with the exception of oil and gas deposits, it is least endowed tract, least attractive to industrialisation of any dimension.

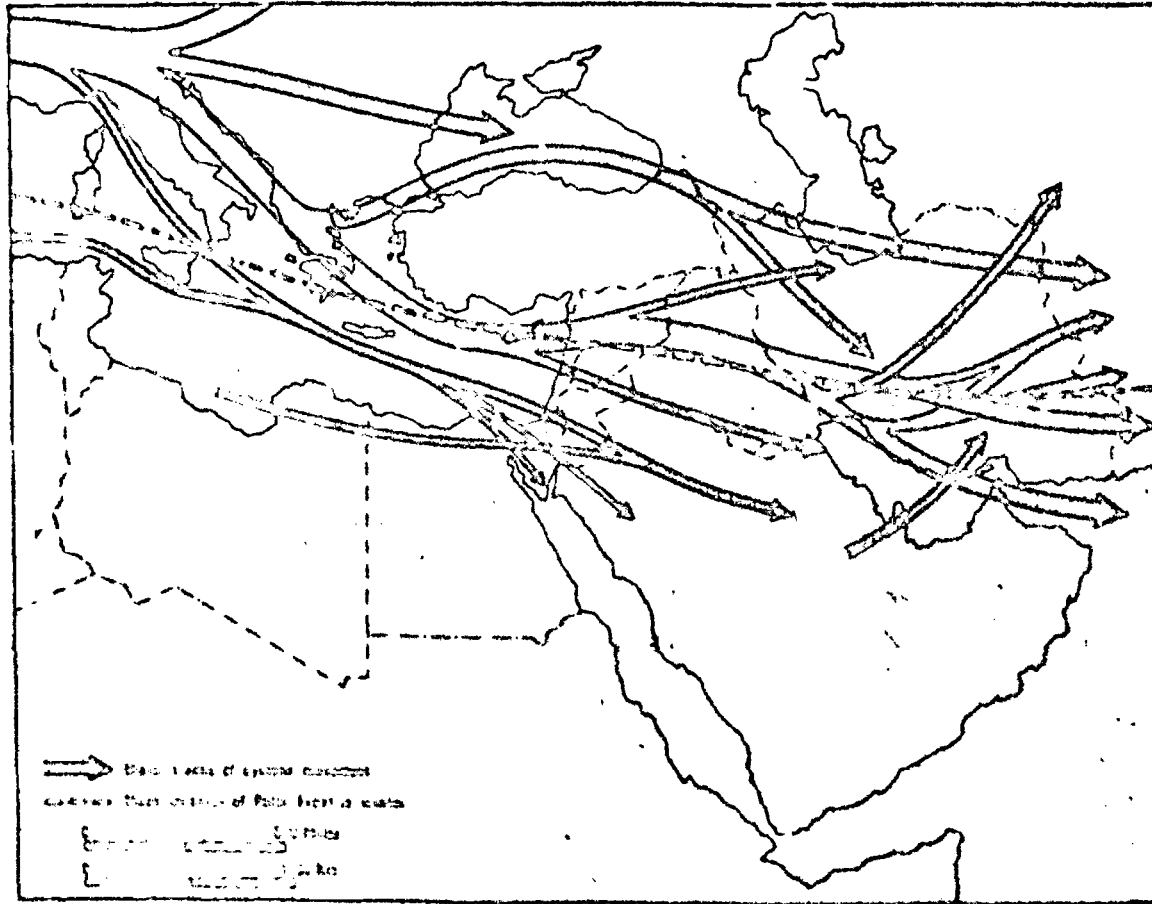
#### Climate:-

The climate of Kurdistan is very harsh and demanding. Its influence is felt severely in all the man's activities ranging from the primary to the tertiary. Summers are hot and dry and markedly dusty in the south while in the north, they are mild and soothing. Winters are bitterly cold; the spring and autumn both are subject to sudden hot or cold spells (See Figure No. 14). The maximum temperature in the valleys record  $49^{\circ}\text{C}$  and absolute minimum of  $-35^{\circ}\text{C}$  have been recorded.<sup>13</sup>

13. "Table of Temperature, Relative Humidity and Precipitation for the World", Part V, Asia M.O. 61 7e. Air Ministry, Meteorological Office, (London, 1971).

TH-1075

### Cyclone tracks over the Middle East



SOURCE: DEBROMONT PETER (1976).

Fig. 9.

The total annual precipitation is between 400 and 600 mm. Almost whole of the rainfall occur in the winter season, particularly from January to March which recorded heaviest rainfall.

(i) Air Pressure and Winds : High winds are the basic characteristics of the Kurdistan region, which intensify the effect of the extreme temperature in winter as well as in summer. The high winds are caused in summer (See Figure No. 9) because of the marked differentiated pressure conditions in the neighbourhood e.g., low pressure in the Indian subcontinent and Baluchistan, extending westward over Kurdistan cause temperature well over 35°C.<sup>14</sup> Whereas the Cyprus low pressure is primarily as a result of differential heating of land and sea with a marked development of local convergent uplift.<sup>15</sup> The strong thermal gradients occur causing extremely swift winds in this region. In winter Kurdistan region comes under the influence of Siberian anticyclone. With few topographical barriers to prevent the south-westward spread of intensely dry cold air from inner Asia, the region experiences often heavy snow late in the month of May.<sup>16</sup> In the early parts of winters the region has western airmasses bringing in lot of precipitation.

(ii) Temperature : Temperature in Kurdistan varies from seasons to seasons with marked diurnal variations. Local topographic ruggedness and elevation variations cause spatial temperature variations.

14. The Encyclopaedia of Islam, New edn. (Leiden; E.J.Brill, 1971), Vol. V, Fascicules 85-86, p. 441.

15. Beaumont Peter and others n.6, p. 54.

16. Ibid; p. 57.

# KURDISTAN

## ANNUAL TEMPERATURE

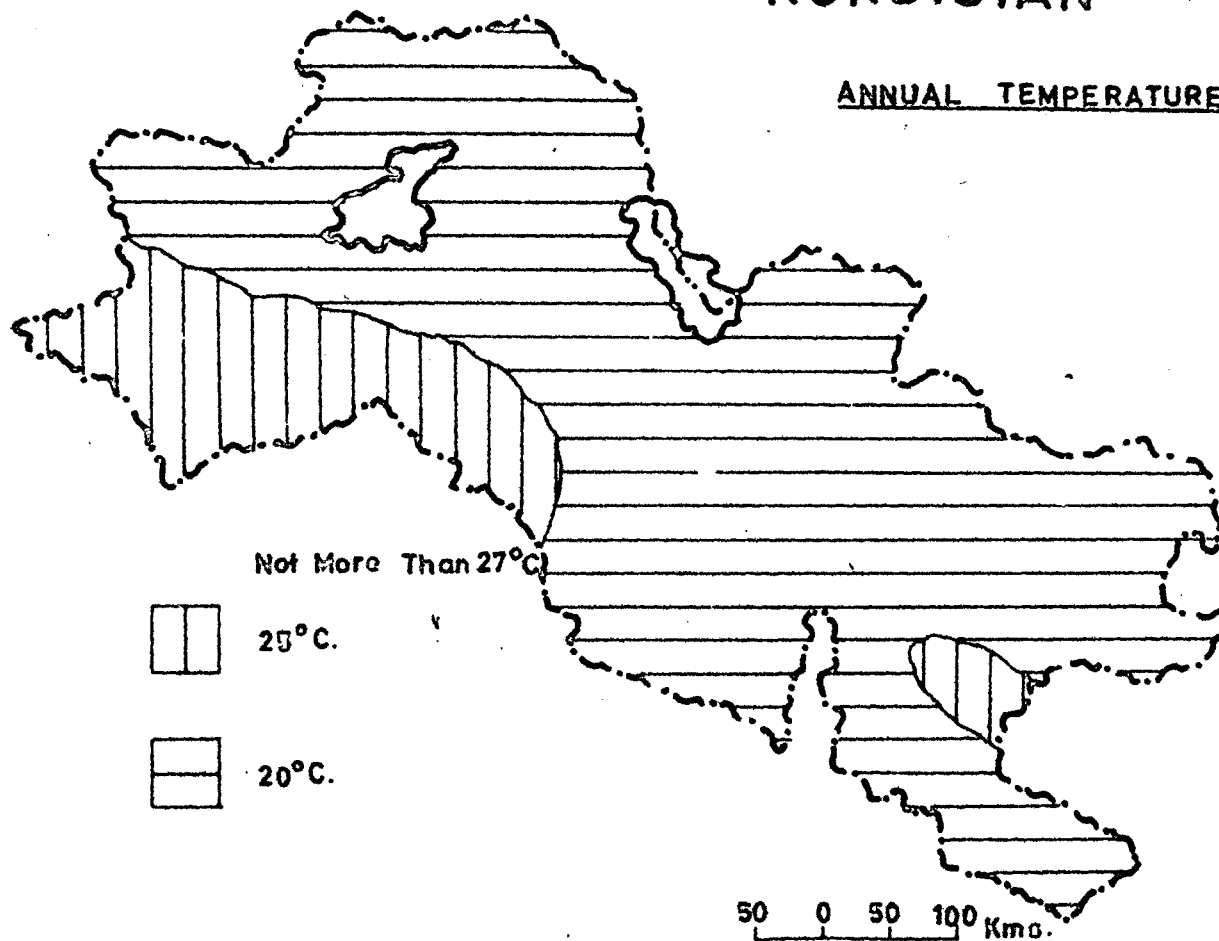


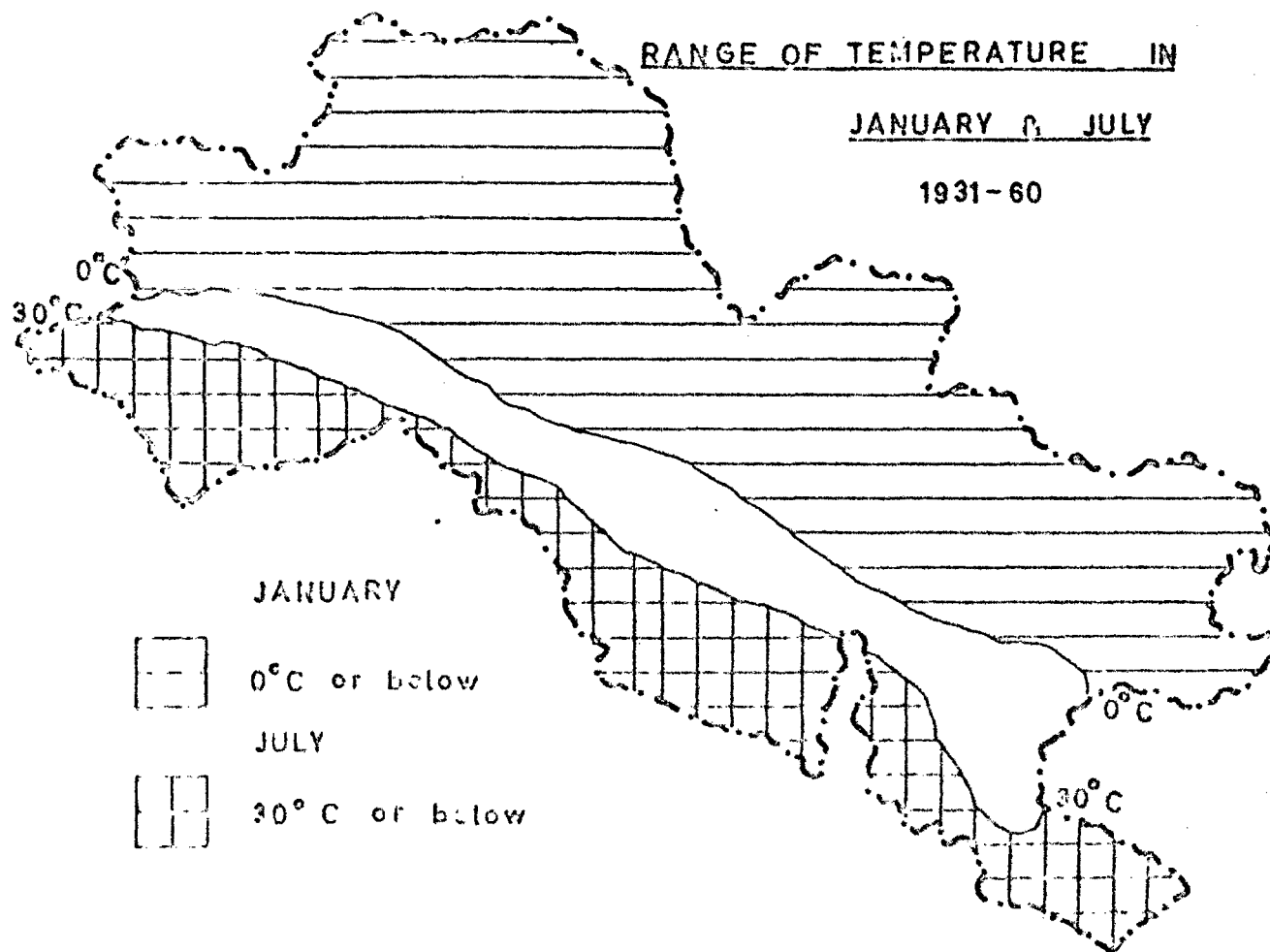
Fig. 10

# KURDISTAN

RANGE OF TEMPERATURE IN

JANUARY & JULY

1931-60



JANUARY



0°C or below

JULY



30°C or below

50 0 50 100 Km.

Fig. 11

Summer are very hot with dry air, particularly in the south-western part of Kurdistan. During day time,  $32^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $90^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) temperature is common in lower area. Cold night brings the daily average to  $18.22^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $65^{\circ}\text{F}$ )  $21-11^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $70^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). May to September is the summer season and October to April is winter. June, July, August and also September are hot and dry spell months. During this period, the mean temperature of region is more than  $17^{\circ}\text{C}$ . At Kirmanshah the mean temperature goes beyond  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$  in July and at Van it is  $22^{\circ}\text{C}$ . In the eastern Kurdistan mean temperature is  $32.2^{\circ}\text{C}$  in July month. In the west mean maximum temperature is  $31.0^{\circ}\text{C}$  in July.<sup>17</sup>

Summers are very much hot specially due to the southerly Khamsin winds from the Arabian desert. But the nights are very cool, e.g., Mosul maximum temperature is  $51^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $124^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) and minimum is only  $15^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $59^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). In the eastern parts of the region the day time temperature exceeds  $37.77^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $100^{\circ}\text{F}$ ), where  $10^{\circ}\text{E}$ . ( $50^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) even  $4.44^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $40^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) in the night.

Winters are very severe in Kurdistan. October to March is the winter season. December and January are the coldest months. Apart from Tigris basin, almost whole of the area has below  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$  temperature in the month of January (See Figure No. 11). In further north, the cold becomes too intense with  $-13^{\circ}\text{C}$  as the mean temperature. Nights have temperature upto  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ , when the absolute minimum of  $-35^{\circ}\text{C}$  have been recorded and on the higher plateau  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  is sometimes recorded. In the north-eastern Kurdistan, the snow remains well upto 100 days

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17. World Metrological Organization "Climatological Normals (Cline) for Climate and Climatship stations for the period 1931-60", edition 1971, (Geneva, 1971), WMO/OHM No. 117, TP. 52.

# KURDISTAN

Mean Annual Precipitation

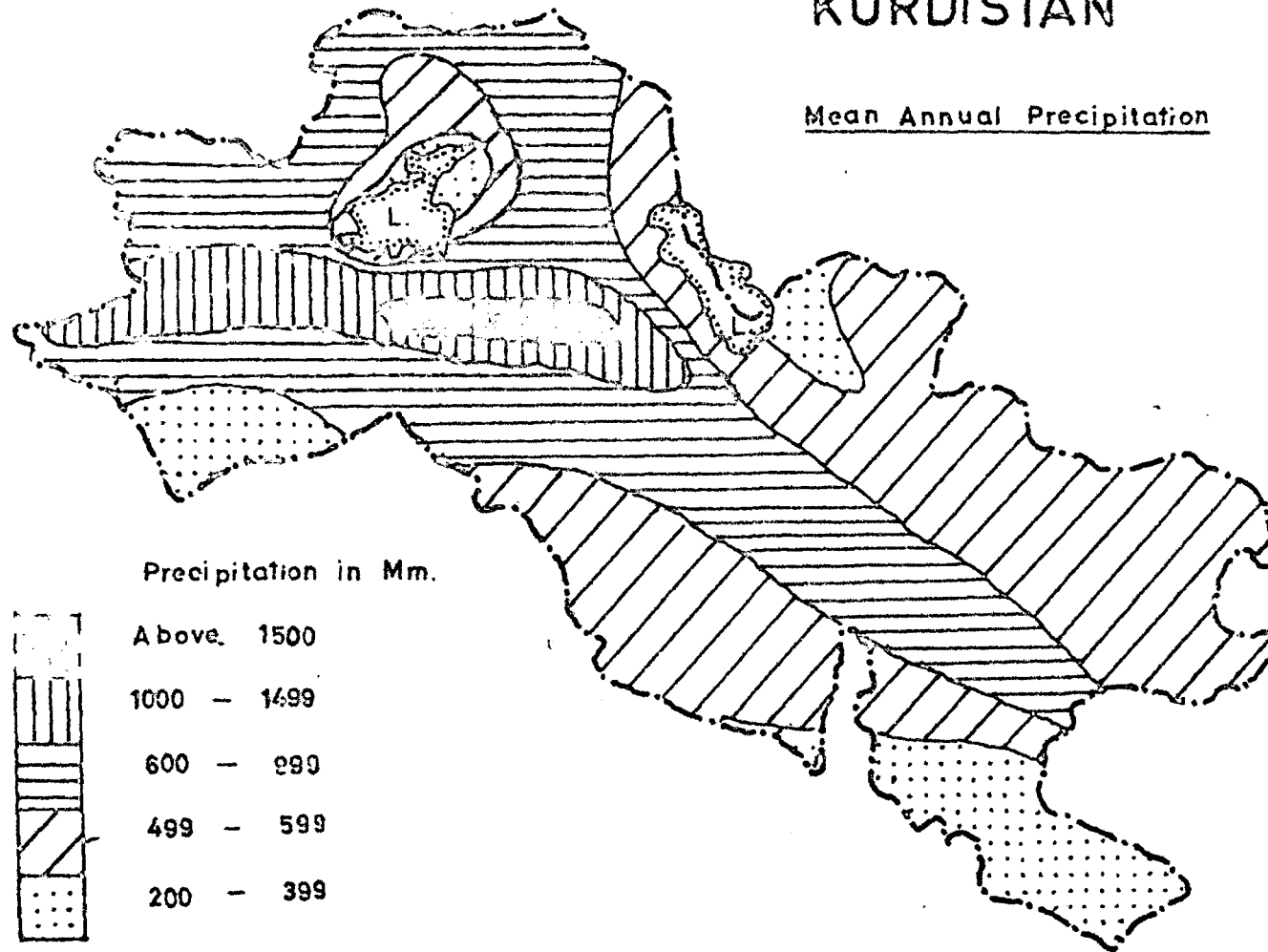


Fig. 12

# KURDISTAN

MONTHLY NORMAL RAINFALL AND  
MEAN TEMPERATURE

1931-33



100  
200  
300  
400  
500  
600  
700  
800  
900  
1000  
1100  
1200  
1300  
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1500  
1600  
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1800  
1900  
2000



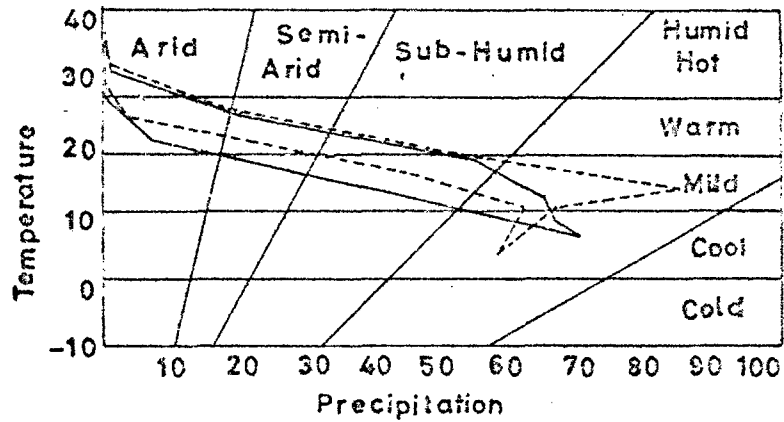
whereas only 7 to 10 days at Diyarbekir in the south. In the Tigris basin, the mean monthly temperature goes down upto  $6.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the month of January.

Local topographic conditions act as the factor for spatial unevenness regarding temperature distribution. There is a considerable difference in valley and mountain area temperature, particularly in southern Kurdistan the summer temperature is recorded upto  $38^{\circ}\text{C}$  whereas in the valleys it could be  $49^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

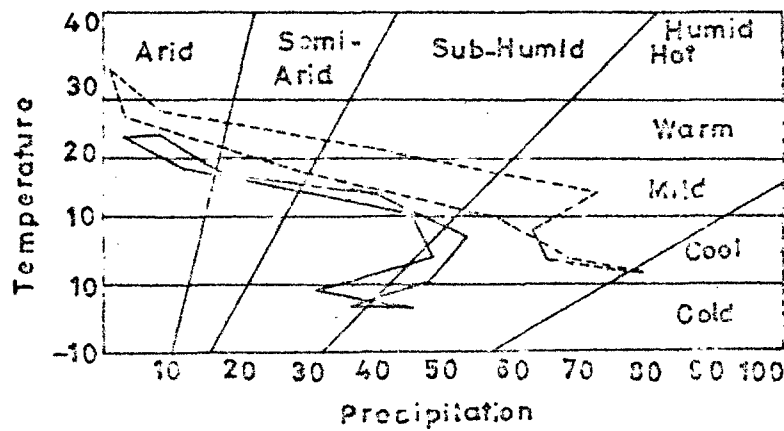
(iii) Humidity and Precipitation : Relative humidity is different from place to place. In Tigris plains relative humidity is more than 50% for the six months of winter season, but in June to September relative humidity is very low. At Mosul August is the driest month with minimum average relative humidity is 13%. In northern Kurdistan relative humidity is much more higher than southern Kurdistan. It is near about 60% mean relative humidity. In eastern Kurdistan, the relative humidity is also more i.e. 59% annual mean. In northern and eastern Kurdistan there is not much change in relative humidity over a 6 months of winter but it varies in summer.

Kurdistan has a moderate precipitation. The mean precipitation is 600 mm to 900 mm. This precipitation is mostly in the winter months. In northern part of Kurdistan, the months of the heaviest rain happens to be February and March, but towards Van April is the wettest month (See figure No. 12). The month of March and April do also experience quite a few hail storms. Mostly in autumn and spring, Iranian Kurdistan get lesser rain than the western Kurdistan.

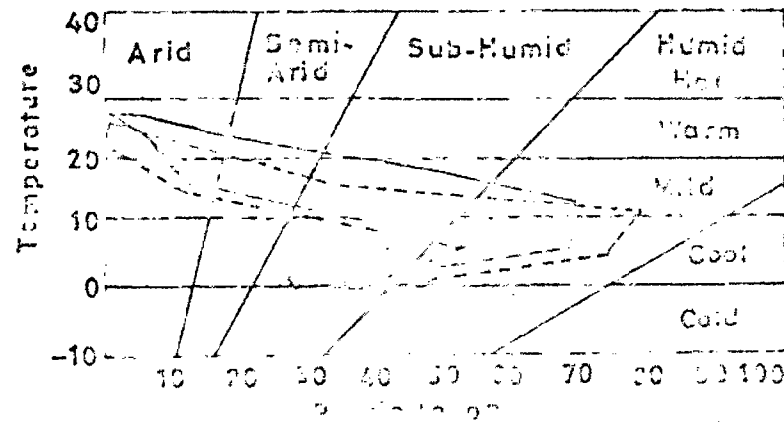
# CLIMOGRAPH



— MOSUL  
 --- KIRKUK



— VAN  
 --- DIYARBAKIR



— REZAIYAN  
 --- RAMADAN

Fig. 14







Distribution of precipitation is depends upon the wind direction and topography and has marked spatial variations. South-east part of Turkey, South Armenian plateau gets more than 1500 mm annual rainfall. Taurus mountain gets more rainfall because of its topographical characteristics and ranges between 1000 to 1500 mm. Hills of Greater Zagros are high in altitude but because of the least moisture the rainfall in the eastern Zagros is between 400 to 600 mm. The plains of Tigris receive less rainfall. The southern part of Kirmanshah province, south area of Lake Urmia Van receive lower rainfall in the range of 200 to 400 mm. The general trends are from heavy rainy areas of north-west to south and south-east areas of low rains. Climatically, the region could be divided into two macro-regions, i.e., cold-wet regime in the north and north west and the semi- and hot regime in the south and south east. Climate has much greater influence on the man-environment-development syndrome in Kurdistan region.

Soil's survey of Kurdistan area is by different countries e.g. survey in Turkey Kurdistan by Oakes in 1957, survey in Iran by Iranian Ministry of Agriculture and F.A.O., prepared soil map at a scale of 1 : 2500,000 and Iraq soil map by Dr. P. Busingh in 1958. Collecting and collating information from above sources one can divide Kurdistan into six soil types i.e. Brown, redish, ~~redish~~ calcareous, chestnuts, Brown steppe (See figure No. 15), brown and radish brown soils. The semi-arid area of Turkish Kurdistan and Zagros mountain ranges have brown-radish soils. The calcareous chestnut soils are found near the lake Van and Lake Urmia and in the valley areas

# TURKISHIA

## SOILS



-  Non Saline Alluvial Soil
-  Brown Steppes Soil
-  Saline Soil
-  Sand Dunes
-  Lithose Is Of Semi arid Region (Mountain Soil)
-  Chestnut Soil

of Kirmanshah province. Brown steppe soils are found in the east Kurdistan, north of Lake Urmia and in the Tigris basin. Sand dunes and sandy tracts are mostly in southern Kurdistan areas, specially in Iraqi part of Kurdistan. However, soil information is not perfect, therefore, regionalization could not be done.

The geographical frame work of Kurdistan in essence, is rather too demanding making the man-environment relations rather difficult. Man has to struggle a lot for his survival because of the harsh climatic regime, rugged topography and poor and limited soil covers. Within a given geographical milieu, one can expect a flourishing economy in the area but the meagre resources at the disposal of Kurdish man makes the life rather difficult.

CHAPTER III

KURDISTAN THROUGH PASSAGE OF TIME

### CHAPTER III

#### KURDISTAN THROUGH PASSAGE OF TIME

For a better understanding of the problems in Kurdistan, it is necessary to look at its historical background. Physiographic structure and geographical location of the region has given much importance to this region during the historical processes which have affected this area across several nation states. The location of the country is always a supreme geographical fact in the history<sup>1</sup> and the region under present study is no exception to these factors of location. In association with it are other physiographic details which generate forces of divergent character and which have frequently changed as per historical and political development in the vast tract. From the earliest time to the present the regime has played a distinctive role in guiding destiny of the various ethnic groups.

#### GEOGRAPHICAL INFLUENCES ON HISTORY

Kurds, the people of Kurdistan, facing several problems in their way of progress have a complexity of geographical conditions along with the political division forces. The terrain itself largely mountainous or desertic in nature has offered considerable physical obstacles for inter regional and intra regional movements of the people.<sup>2</sup> Geographically,

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1. Ellen Churchill Semple, Influence of Geographical Environment (London, 1911), p. 129.
2. Fisher W.B., The Middle East: A Physical, Social and Regional Geography, (London), 1971, revd. edn. 6, p.6.

Kurdistan is a negative area because of its uneven terrain and harsh type of climate.<sup>3</sup> Its mountaineous structure and rigorous erosion by Tigris and its tributaries has continued to be an adverse factor for any reasonable economic activity, specially cultivation. Shifting agriculture remained for long a traditional way of cultivation. They have to put very hard labour in it, than the surrounding plain areas.

Even for a settlement also climate is not suitable. "The climate of Kurdistan, specially the eastern Turkey stands out as one of the most difficult and inhospitable in the world."<sup>4</sup> Because of the seasonal variation, migration is must, that is from the valley to the high lands in the summer for better grasslands and the reverse in winters for protection from severe cold. This does not give much of permanency to the settlements in the region. They are always on the move in search of better pastures. It has been the way of life of the Kurds under geographical compulsions. In association, the uneven terrain is an obstacle for movement from one place to another, it is a natural restriction to economic development and political unity. The physiography with gorges and steep slopes has separated Kurd tribes and has given sense of isolation and separate identity leading to a feudal structure in the various tribal groups of Kurds.

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3. Climatological Normals, period 1931-60, WMO/ OMM No. 117 TP 52, World Meteorological Organization (Geneva) Edition 1971.
4. Fisher W.B., n. 2, p. 317.



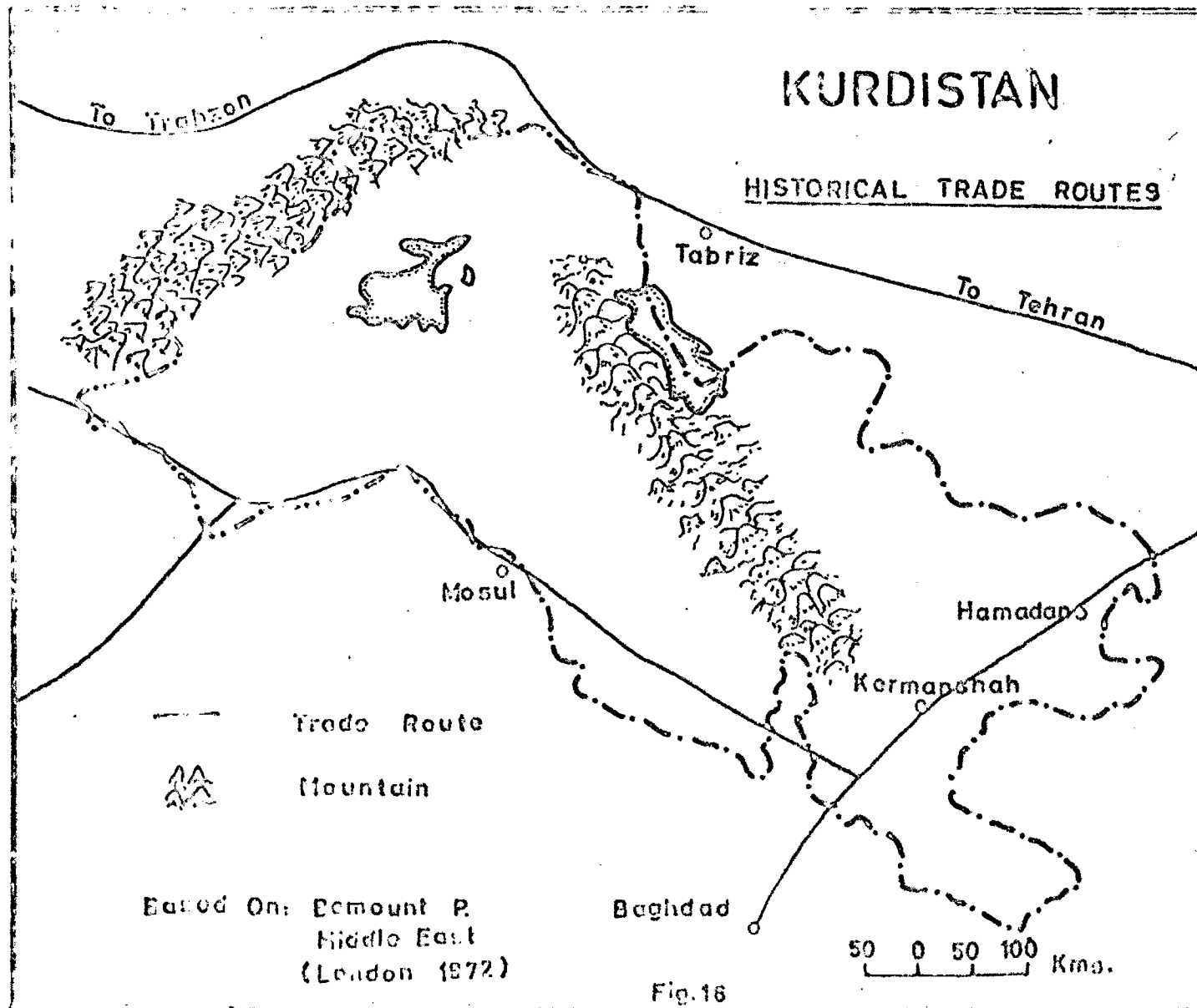


Fig.16

Kurdistan stands isolated inspite of its location on the cross roads of the Middle East. Land routes developed in the Roman time from the West/Rome to the Eastern countries, China and India. "A northern route passed via .... Khokand, Bekhara and joined by another route from India via Southern Iran."<sup>5</sup> From Hamadan the route continued to Babylon and then turned northwards by way of the middle valley of Euphrates".<sup>6</sup> These land routes passing near by Kurdistan, from north and south, but never entering Kurdistan because of its high mountainous and highly folded structure. While going through Arabian or Persian desert, camel as a mode of transport being used, "but in highly folded land of Kurdistan camel became useless."<sup>7</sup> Only horses are useful in this terrain area. But it is not so feasible to change the mode of transport for the long-run travellers and traders, so that, they used to go on the margins of this uneven terrain of Kurdistan. They were further compelled to take such marginal routes because sometimes Kurds with poor resources and difficult maintenance due to the geographical compulsions robbed and attacked on neighbours and foreigners (traders) at border land (See Figure No. 16). Once Nadir Quli remarked that a

5. Fisher W.B., n. 2, p. 160

6. Ibid. p. 160.

7. Waheed Shaikh A., The Kurds and their Country: History of Kurdish People from earliest Times to Present (Lahore, 1955).

8. Waheed S.A., n. 7, p. 126.

# HISTORICAL PLACES IN KURDISTAN DURING A.D. 1500-1600



"Kurd is a more ferocious than a wolf and that they should be exterminated from the face of the earth."<sup>8</sup>

POLITICAL AMBIVALENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS

The history of Kurds is infact has been the history of Turkey and the Turkish Sultans, of Armenia and the Armenians, of Arabs of Iraq and Syria and the history of Iran and Iranians.<sup>9</sup> Kurdistan was always under the foreigners' rule except some period of political vaccum in the region.

The Kurds have been settled in their present home since 2400 B.C. Since that time they have remained isolated from the others till the sixth century B.C. In 539 B.C. the Mesopotamian lowlands were conquered by Cyrus of Persia and later Asia minor was invaded by Alexander the Great and shatter the Persian Empire and his successors became the severign rulers of the region by the first century B.C. With the decline of the Empires, new regional dynasties cropped up e.g. Armenian Emperor Tigrians the great took the command of the Lake Van and Lake Urmia area<sup>10</sup> thus the present Iranian Kurdistan was gone under the Armanians (See Figure No. 17).

In the seventh century A.D. Arabs came from south with an Islamic upsurge and mission and Kurds converted to Islamd

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- 8. Waheed S.A., n.7 p. 126.
- 9. Ibid p.
- 10. Waheed S.A., n.7.p.55
- 11. Ibid, p. 56.

in the mid of the seventh century A.D..... and remained firm believers of the Sunni Sect.<sup>11</sup> By the end of the eleventh century political anarchy and disunity among muslims yielded to Mongols attacks in the region, hence Mongols founded a strong empire in Fourteenth century included Turkish and Iraqi Kurdistan. In the Ottoman period Kurdistan was divided among Persia and Turkey in 1639 A.D. an Agreement between Shah Abbas and the Ottoman Sultan Murad IV.<sup>12</sup> Further some of Kurds have contacts with Shah and Sultan, simultaneously.

In the 19th century A.D. European imperialist powers penetrated disguised form by increasing trade and trade capabilities and by giving some economic incentives and help. At the time of first World War, European imperialism reached at height in the region and divided the whole of Middle East into their spheres of influence and contending powers were that of Britain, Russia, France and Germany. It resulted into formation of new nation states causing turmoil over the border lands. Kurdistan became divided in three separate nations, i.e., Turkey, Iran and Iraq by Treaty of Ek Sykes-Picot (1916)<sup>13</sup>, Treaty of Sevres (1920) and the Treaty of Lausanne(1923)<sup>14</sup>.

11. Ibid, p. 56

12. Ghassemlou A.R., Kurdistan and Kurds (Publishing house of the Czechoslovak Academy of Science, Prague, 1965), p. 37.

13. Fisher W.B., n. 2, p. 176.

14. Kendal, The Kurds under the Ottoman Empire, in Chaliand G., (Ed.), People Without a Country: The Kurds and Kurdistan, (London, 1980), p. 41.

On the other, because of political unawareness and lack of coordination among Kurds and their various tribes they missed an opportunity of political vacuum on the region in 1919-1920 and could not take this opportunity to become one single nation state. Further they developed separate political organizations in Iran, Iraq and Turkey. Artificial division of Kurdistan and differences of opinions among themselves and varying Kurds in administrative controls, Kurds suffered a lot and they had to continue their struggle. Iraq gave some autonomy in March, 1970 but Iraq Government systematically and cleverly kept Kirkuk province<sup>15</sup> away from Kurds' autonomous region and thus they managed to harvest riches of the region for the benefit of the rest of the country and deprived Kurds from their natural endowments. In Iran the struggle for autonomy still continues in spite of the change of political authority with the exit of Shah of Iran and no body can guess the time for complete peace to return.

#### COLONIAL OVERTONES AND INFLUENCE

The factors responsible for colonial history of Kurdistan during 19th and early part of 20th century are, industrial revolution in Europe, the growing weakness of Turkish Empire, the discovery of oil in the Kurdish land and

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15. The XXXVII session of International Commission of Inquiry, sent by the Council of the League of Nations, to solve the Mosul question. Ultimately the League of Nations given a result in favour of British mandate in Iraq. And completed divisions of Kurdistan, while attaching Mosul Vilayat to Iraq. Ghassamlou A.R., n. 14, p. 162.

may be enmity among Muslims. Industrial revolution increased industrial production, that created two problems i.e. one was to find a market for dumping the excess production and the other was to find enough raw materials to keep running the factories. Both these requirements were met through colonization elsewhere by European powers. Thus Britain, Russia, Germany, France and Italy penetrated the Middle East. "Their economic penetration was accompanied by equally active political pressure."<sup>16</sup>

The commercial treaties of Ottoman Empire with the European nations and its indifferent attitude and further decline of Ottoman power gave clear way to foreigners. Foreign ownership widespread in most of the economic field, such as Baghdad railway development by Germany<sup>17</sup>, oil pipeline by France and Britain. Moreover military intervention and assistance became a normal phenomenon, e.g. in 1854 Britain and France supported Turkey<sup>18</sup> against Russians' expansion.

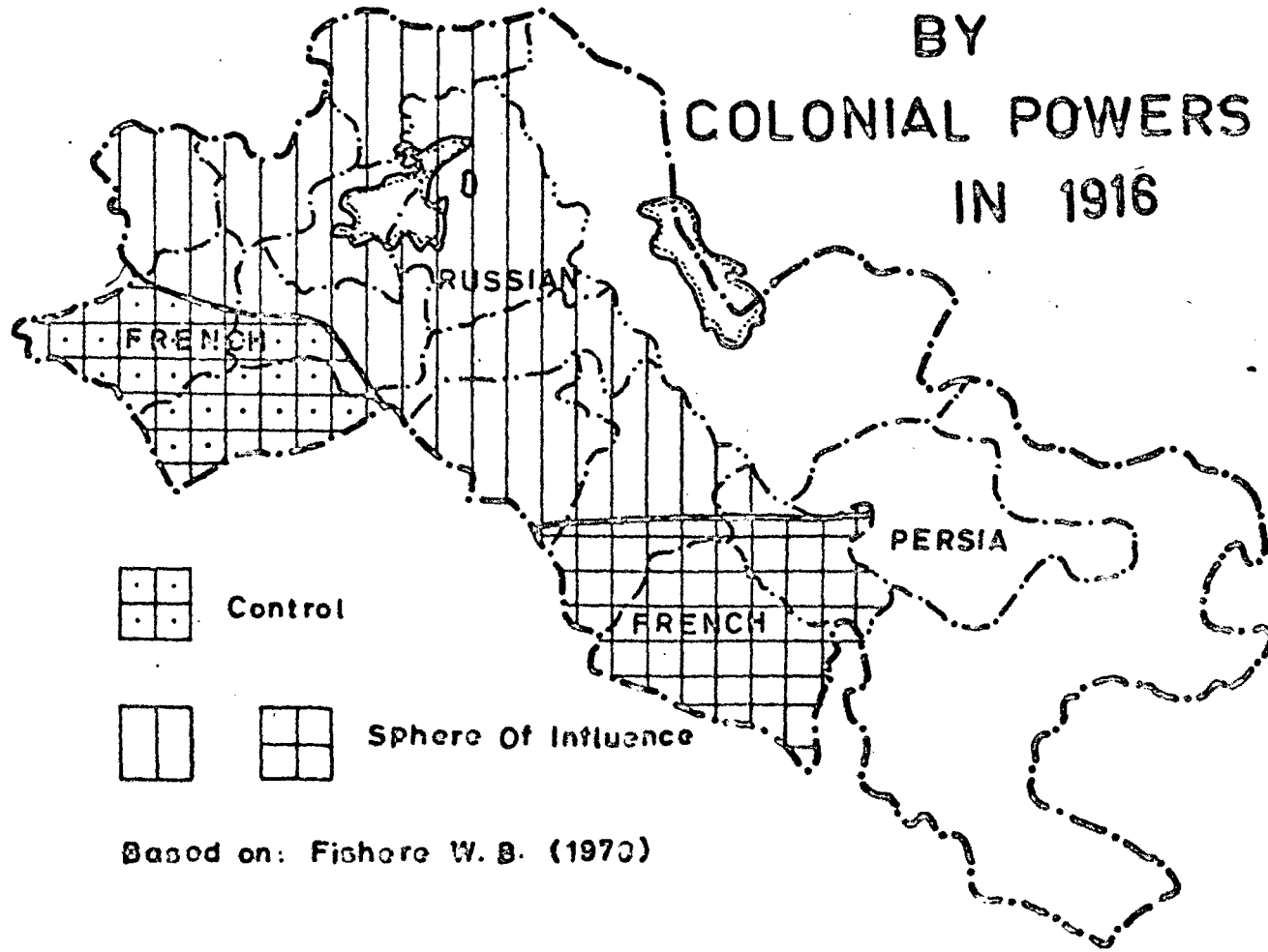
First quarter of Twentieth century was a period of fierce struggle between the Russians, the British and the French and latter on Germans. Of which Kurdistan became

16. Fisher W.B., n.2, p. 170.

17. Stamp L. Dudley, Asia: A regional and Economic Geography (London, 1967), edn. 12, p. 93.

18. Dawdnoy Jehn C., Turkey (London 1971) p. 70.

# DIVISION OF KURDISTAN BY COLONIAL POWERS IN 1916



Based on: Fishore W. B. (1970)

Source: Fisher W.D. (London 1978)

50 0 50 100 Km.

Fig. 18



the meeting place of different agents of imperialist powers. On the other hand, beginning of 20th century saw Arab nationalism coming up and that further boosted by British by giving them some military assistance in 1914 and in turn used them as a political weapon against Turkey.

The colonial overtones reached at its height in 1916 by the Sykes-Picot Treaty,<sup>19</sup> which was drawn up between Britain, France and Russia. (See Figure No. 18). Each country was to receive various territories either in full possession or as a spheres of influence over the Turkish state.<sup>20</sup> The Treaty remain dead letter, since Russia collapsed in following years. The motivation of treaty was in the interest of imperialist powers and meant to partition of Middle East. The Treaty of Sevres (1920) can be regarded a high water mark of European intervention in the Middle East by which two parts of Kurdistan further divided into four parts i.e. Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria.

In Iran Russia was the main colonial power which captured some provinces in the north-west Iran, e.g. Azarbaijan province was detached from Iran in 1928.<sup>21</sup> Russia was having her warm water plan to reach the Indian Ocean and to occupy southern Iranian oil fields but having a stronghold of British

19. Lorenzo K. Kimball, *The Changing Pattern of Political Power in Iraq - 1958 to 1979* (New York, 1972), p. 167.

20. Fisher W.B. n.2, p. 176.

21. Dawdney J.C., n. 20, p. 70.

in the Gulf and southern Iran, it made impossible to Russian to reach there. Iran has accepted Russia's suzerainty and gave grand capitulatory.<sup>22</sup> Russian commerce with Persia continued to grow upto 1914. After the collapse of Russian Empire, British forces sent to north west to resist German and tribes of Zagros (Kurds), because German and Turkish agents had provoked Zagros tribes against British forces in the Persian Gulf. During 1941-45, Iran became an important supply base and a link between the Persian Gulf and Russia.<sup>23</sup>

#### INTEREST BEFORE OIL :

(a) POLITICAL INTEREST : Before the discovery of oil in the Kurdistan, Ottoman Sultan and Persian Shah and foreign powers have their political as well as economic interests in Kurdistan area. Weak Ottoman Sultan adopted a policy of 'divide and rule' and created enmity between heterogeneous groups, Kurds against Armenians.<sup>24</sup> And could control the Kingdom and served his interest. Ottoman Sultan utilised Kurdish military force in the battle of Tehaldiran<sup>25</sup> to defeat his rival, the Shah of

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22. The Middle East and North Africa - 1974-75 : A Survey and reference book (London, 1974, European Publication), chn. 21, p. 321.
  23. In the Province of Azarbaijan the Society Command..... actively, pursued a policy of forming an independent, or at least autonomous state," Admends J.C., Kurdish Nationalism, Journal of Contemporary History, (London, 1971), Vo. 6, No. 1, p. 96.
  24. Fisher W.B. n. 2, p. 166
  25. During Pese-Ottoman battle of Tehaldiran (North of Kurdistan) in 1514 A.D., the Kurdish chieftains fought alongside the Ottoman Sultan Salim the cruel and contributed to his victory. Chalind G. (ed), n. 16, p. 22.

Persia. Another motive of Ottoman Sultan was that to make Kurdistan as a buffer (state), autonomous principalities on the Turkish Iranian border, that were friendly to Turks but, would resist aggression from any other source. For the same purpose Shah Abbas started 'Planting' Kurdish colonies in the north-west of Iran for preventing attacks of Turks. Further Persia introduced the Kurdish standing force, known as the 'Cossack Force'<sup>26</sup> to control the wilder and more remote area, the idea which they got from Russians. The Turks also liked this idea and 1891 they introduced some irregular Kurdish cavalry units, known as 'Hamidiye Regiments'.<sup>27</sup>

France, Britain, Germany and Russia were interested in Kurdistan area to extend their influence in that area, hence, Kurdistan became an arena of conflicting imperialist powers. Russia captured Northern Kurdistan (Azarbaijan) as a part of her plan to reach warm water ports of south. On the other hand, France and Britain strengthened their influence in southern Kurdistan to prevent further Russian expansion in the south.

26,27. O' Ballance E. Kurdish Revolt 1961-1970 (London, 1973), p. 17.

28,29. Divan Tax from Kurdistan approximately 2,000,000 Dinars (Nuzbutal-qulab) and 201,500 Divan dues collected. Boyle J.A.(ed). The Cambridge History of Iran (London, 1968), Vol. 5, p. 498.

(b) ECONOMIC INTERESTS : Before oil, Kurdistan was a land of feudal Aghas, while keeping them under domination, Ottoman Sultan and Persian Shah could collect much amount from Divan Tax<sup>28</sup> and Divan Dues.<sup>29</sup> Before oil Kurdistan was a colony of Turks, Iranians and latter on colonialist powers of Europe, which provided them with cheap and abundant labour, various minerals and agricultural products, and also provide ground for Turkish manufactured products.<sup>30</sup> Moreover, a trained army troops and good quality horses are the great help to Ottoman and Persian Empires, e.g., "Two third of Persian troops consisted of Kurds."<sup>31</sup>

INTEREST AFTER OIL :

(a) POLITICAL INTEREST : After oil discovery in Kurdistan area in 1901<sup>32</sup>, the rivalries among colonialist powers increased for oil, thus Kurdistan politically became more important. During First World War, parts of Kurdistan were a battlefield of the Turkish and Russian armies.<sup>33</sup> Russia dominated eastern Turkey and Western Iran (almost Kurdistan) and on the other hand Turks tried to provoke religious feelings

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28,29. Divan Tax from Kurdistan approximately 2,000,000 Dinars (Nuzbutal-qulab) and 201,500 Divan dues collected Boyle J.A.(ed). The Cambridge History of Iran (London, 1968). Vol. 5, p. 498.

30. Kandal, Kurdistan in Turkey, in Chaliand G (ed), No. 16, p. 82.

31. Ghassemieu A.R., n. 14, p. 41.

32. Waheed S.A., No. 7, p. 154.

33. Ghassemieu A.R., Kurdistan in Iran, in Chaliand G., n. 16, p. 117.

of Kurds against non-muslims. Russia was keen to keep them neutral to implement her warm water strategy. Meanwhile Kurds awareness for their autonomy and independent state increased. So they supported Kemal in Turkish National movement, hoping that, they will get independant state but after-ward Kurds were deceived by him.

The Sykes-Picot Treaty (1916) manifeste in itself the keen interest of Britain, France and Russia in Kurdish territory to make Kurdistan as their colony, but that treaty remain dead after the fall of Russia. In 1925 Britain sought for Kurds sympathy to gain Mosul Villayat. But that time Germany was interested in creating a Kurdish Separate State, but considering not to antagonise rest of the Arab world, the Germans dropped the idea. After independence of Iran, Iraq and Turkey, these countries adopted a policy of amalgamation of different groups and areas either by the process of adjustment or by impositica.

(b) ECONOMIC INTEREST : After the discovery of oil in Kurdistan area in 1901, "William D'Arcary, an Australian, obtained an oil concession from the Shah of Iran ... the most profitable oil field in the Kurdistan land, by about same time..... in the Kurdish land (Mesul and Kirkuk)".<sup>34</sup> Other colonialist powers also get oil capitulation from Ottoman and Persian emperors, thus Kurdish oil became a major source of foreign money. While in search of oil, many mines discovered in Kurdistan, hence exploitation of minerals also started at

34. Waheed S.A., n. 7, p. 154.

large scale. German constructed Baghdad Railway for this season only. Britishers were interested in Mesul oil. "The British took these part of Mesul originally assigned to the French in the Sykes-Picot Agreement and surrendered later in return for oil concessions."<sup>35</sup>

Abundant of natural and human resources (Kurdish standing army) in Kurdistan, attracted the foreign imperialist powers and regional powers, hence Kurdistan became a colony for strategic exploitation of natural and human resources. Due to importance given by foreigners to Kurdistan, a political awareness among Kurds developed and that led to several Kurdish revolts, of 1826, 1834, 1853-55, 1880 and so on) in Turkey. After discovery of oil in Kurdish territory and increasing political awareness among Kurds, Kurdistan as a separate state demand became quite strong, moreover, arm repression and resistance increased in Kurdistan. Due to British interest in Mesul oil, Kurdistan get divided in four parts, while attachment of Mesul Vilayat to Iraq. Kurdish independent movement was suppressed in very cruel manner. As a different political power and rulers in Kurdish territory, Kurds at different part obviously get different political affiliations, hence, Kurdish movement lacked coordination among them. Taking advantage of it, Turkey and Iran suppressed Kurdish movement very cruelly and to some extent Iraq also did in the same fashion.

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35. S. Stanford J., History of the Ottoman Empire and the Modern Turkey (London, 1977) Vol. II, p. 328.

KURDISTAN IN THE CONTEMPORARY PERIOD

Beginning of the 20th century, nationalism became a force in most of the countries of Middle East. Many of them got independence from their colonial powers. In the wake of such independence movements an ethos and favour, the Kurds also demanded separate state but they could not get it on the contrary. They were further divided in more parts than, previously. With the partition, the Kurds remained aggrieved and rejuvenated their efforts for possible unified autonomous Kurdistan but none of these nation states, Iran, Iraq and Turkey could tolerate such a situation and therefore Kurds became a problem to them. Kurds viewed that Sykes-Picot agreement is against human rights of the people living together in a geographically district region. After the fall of Russia in 1917 and Ottoman Empire in 1918, a political vacuum was created in the region but this opportunity could not be utilized by Kurds because of incompetent leadership guiding their destiny.

They were still at a stage of development in which the only leadership to emerge was more susceptible to clerical and feudal influences than to any 'modernist' tendencies".<sup>36</sup> Because of this weakness Kurdish movement stands torn, as a result of the conflict between traditionalists and modernists and divided into half a dozen parties and committees, this leadership could not rise to the occasion.<sup>37</sup>

36. Keadal, in n. 16, p. 39.

37. Ibid. p. 39.

Allied powers glossed over the Kurdish problem in the Treaty of Sevres (10 August, 1920), however, Article No. 62-64 of this treaty gave consideration to autonomous state of Kurdistan. Treaty of Lausanne (24 June 1923) did not consider Kurdish problem at all. As a result of it, Kurds divided into four different state and remained as minorities in Iran, Iraq and Turkey and Syria. Kurdish movements were forced down and banned in these States. The demand for autonomous state was also not considered and moreover, the authorities denied even the minority rights to Kurds. In Turkey, Kurdish movement was suppressed in a very cruel manner. About this Jawaharlal Nehru said "the Turks, who had only recently been fighting for their own freedom, crushed the Kurds. It is strange, how a defensive nationalism develops into an aggressive one for domination over others ...., but how can one crush for ever other people who insist on freedom, and are prepared to pay the price for it."<sup>38</sup> Kurds revolted against Turkish Government in 1925 and 1930 but the revolt was condemned to death.<sup>39</sup>

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38. Nehru J.L., Glimpses of World History (Allahabad, 1935), Vol. II, p. 1108.

39. Sheikh Said and other leaders were brought to Court and executed, 53 leaders of the revolt were sentenced to death. Ghosseinou A.R., n. 14, p. 51.



The Turkish Government implemented the policy of terror. The freedom and existence of the Kurdish poet was difficult as well as the use of Kurdish language was banned in Turkey. The Turks made more intensive military expeditions in Kurdistan area and declared Kurdistan as a military area for a long time. In May, 1932, a new law was passed, by which thousands of Kurds were deported into other areas where they were to constitute 5% of the population.<sup>40</sup> Hence, so many Kurdish families had to stand up rooted from their soil, society and home land. Turkey, Persia and Iraq signed the Saadabad Treaty on 8 July, 1937, of which Article 7 was aimed against the Kurdish movement.

In Iraq and Iran, Kurds faced more or less the same type of problems and torture. British sought support of Kurds in Mosul question but at the same time they denied Kurdish demand of an independent state. Moreover they suppressed Kurdish movement led by Sheikh Mohamad Barzinji in 1925 and 1932 by military operation. The Kurdish rebels demonstrated to remind the League of Nations of its promises concerning an autonomous Kurdish administration by the Council in 1932 declared that it is impossible for it to do so. The Saadabad Treaty (1937) was against the formation and activities of Kurdish association in Iraq. The Treaty of Sevres provoked the revolt in southern Kurdistan, between 1920 to 1925 (The Simk movement). Leader of it, Sheikh Mohamad managed to hold Iranian Kurdistan region but the lack of coordination coupled with misguidance, he committed a tragic error of killing the

40. Ibid. p. 61.

Assyrian leader Mir Shimun<sup>41</sup> which finally dampened the movement and it became difficult to initiate again such a strong movement immediately.

Kurdish problem has continued after World War II. During second world war, Kurds formed their own Kingdom in January 1946 (Kingdom of Mahabad in Iranian Kurdistan). But it could not live long because of lack of coordination and surrender withdrawal of Iraqi Kurdish leader Barzani. So that Iranian forces could broke down the Kingdom in 1947<sup>42</sup> and hanged the Kurdish leader in the public and thus Shah of Iran was able to crush the Democratic Movement.<sup>43</sup> Iranian Army crushed the peasant revolt here and elsewhere. The Pact like Saadabad was again signed by Iran, Iraq, Turkey and Pakistan on 23 February 1956 called as a 'Baghdad Pact.'<sup>44</sup> Shah of Iran gave strategic help to Iraqi Kurdistan movement, so that, Kurds in Iran keep quiet and be neutral with Shah. "It was considered that any KDP action against Shah's regime was considered as a hostile act towards the Kurdish revolution".<sup>45</sup>

41. Chassemeu A.R., Kurdistan in Iran, in n. 16, p. 117.

42. Kessing's Contemporary Archives, 1946-48 (London, Kessing's Publication Ltd.), Vol. VI, p. 7952.

43. "Shah denied elected KDP candidate who got votes between 80% to 99% in Mahabad." Chassemeu A.R., in n. 16, p. 122.

44. The Middle East and North Africa - 1974-75, n. 24, p. 361. One of the general principal of the pact is "The Council recognised that attempt at subversion in the area must be defeated and peaceful conditions maintained" Kessing's Contemporary Archives, Vol. XI (1957-1958, London) p. 16024.

45. Challind G. (Ed.), n. 16, p. 124.

At present also, Kurdistan is facing several problems. Situation in Iranian Kurdistan has become worst. Kurdistan area has become an intensive militarized zone than any other part of Iran. The Army and the Police exercises complete authority. The movement of population is strictly controlled. Following the Agreement signed between Iran and Iraq on 6 May, 1975 even the most minimal demand for national rights is very severely repressed.

The terror of the policy in Turkish part of Kurdistan still continued. Turkish is the only official language, which creates main problem of Kurdish people that they are compelled not to use their own language. "More than three quarters of the Kurds in Turkey do not speak the official language of the State."<sup>46</sup> There is no school where teaching instructions are imparted in Kurdish language. Radio Baghdad's broadcast in Kurdish language provokes the popular feeling in Turkish Kurdistan. Although freedom of thoughts and expression was given in 1961 constitution, it is not implemented in proper spirit and therefore a bad effect of this is that Kurds split between Justice Party and New Turkish Party, Parliamentarists and Leninists, etc. Being divided, the result is that Kurdish stand and the spirit of movement get diluted.

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46. Kendal, Kurdistan in Turkey, in Chalianol G. n. 16, p. 84. Most Kurdish people do not speak a word of Turkish language; in Mardin 91%, Siirt 87%, Hakkari 81% in Diyarbakir 67% in Bingol 68% in Bittis 66% etc.

In Iraq a systematic bias against the Kurds' minorities has been rampant by means of economic discrimination and through deportation of Arab population in Kirkuk area and Kurds out of Kirkuk area. March Manifesto of 1970, tried to solve the Kurdish problem but it created further problem as the economic centre of Kurdistan, the Kirkuk oil field is being detached from Kurdistan autonomous region,<sup>47</sup> and it is a severe damage to the economy of Kurdistan area and a break on the possible economic development.

Most of the problems of Kurdistan could be viewed from political and economic angles. Now Kurds are in minority in all four states i.e. Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria. And as a minority group, they are having several minority problems. Kurdistan is considered economically and socially a backward region. Due to several revolts launched from time to time by Kurds against the central authority in all four states and consequent suppression of Kurds movement by these central authorities there it developed an antagonistic attitude suspicion and distrust which always creep in as the barrier in any negotiation for solving impasse. Foreigners have played a damaging role by way of infesting. Kurds developed the region by variant ideologies and affiliations. The result is that unity among themselves has become a big question mark and a united front as an impossibility.

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47. Kirkuk proposal on basis of 1957 census results which gave the number of Kurds 800,000, whereas the DPK maintained that the present figure was 2,300,000. Keessing's contemporary Archives (London, 1974), Vol. XX, p.

Another main cause of Kurdish problem is the development of a feudal society which never allows them to come out of their traditional ethos and ferreux. Every Agha want only his authority on his group, which is undemocratic. Economic development of Kurdistan region in any state is not to the satisfaction of the Kurds. Regional imbalances of economic development between Kurdish area and non-Kurdish area is enormous, it has generated the sense of being treated step-motherly and placed heavy barriers on any unity move. Government's restrictions on agricultural production and sale of it is further responsible for worsening the relationship between peasants and government.

Kurdistan on the Kurds are the offsprings of the various historical, political and socio-economic processes in the region of Middle East as well as in the four States of Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey. It cannot be taken for a study in isolation, as it is the by-product of something massive existing continuously in the region in similar or otherwise forms throughout its history. Of course, one has to give the due to the impact of geography on such a state of affairs. It is rather difficult as well as beyond the scope of the present study to suggest ways and means of the solution. It would take time and only then one can say fairly on the possible developments in Kurdistan.

**CHAPTER IV**

**DEMOGRAPHIC ASPECT OF KURDISTAN**

CHAPTER IV

DEMOGRAPHIC ASPECTS OF KURDISTAN

The recent demographic data on Kurdistan region is either inadequate or unreliable or both.<sup>1</sup> Only Turkey have long time series of data from 1927, otherwise Iran and Iraq had their censuses started from 1957 and 1947 respectively. The general paucity data and statistical information on Kurdistan could be explained on the basis of a practical problem of census making, where a high proportion of the population is nomadic and semi-nomadic in character.<sup>2</sup>

There seems to be no historical reference about the total population of Kurdistan except that of Kurdish military men and their horses, either in Sultan's and Shah's army. It is an interesting note to observe that at the time of Turkish independence, Kurdish leaders posed problem of Kurdish separate state in the house of league of Nations in 1923, where the league of Nations asked the Kurdish leaders to represent facts about the Kurdish majority within 9 months but they could not do so, obviously due to the paucity of information and absence of any record. Political considerations are also responsible for the unreliability and inadequacy of ethnic, racial and linguistic data, as for example Turkey does not ~~with~~ maintain name of Kurds in any official record and moreover they consider Kurds as 'Mountainous Turks'.<sup>3</sup>

1. Beameunt, The Middle East, London 1972, p. 175.

2. Ibid.

3. Fisher W.B., The Middle East :- Physical, Social and Regional Geography, [London, 1978], p. 191.

The word "Kurd" was completely removed from the Turkish language. The Government prohibited to other than Turkish people to claim their ethnic and racial identity. "It is only the Turkish nation that has the privilege to claim ethnic and racial rights in this country and no other elements is entitled to do so."<sup>4</sup> A case with Iranian Kurdistan is also the same. The Chauvinism of the Pan Turkish and Pan-Iranian craving for ancient glory make it impossible to acquire any correct official figures giving the number of Kurds in these countries. Naturally, many Kurds do not declare their mother tongue in a country, where the word Kurd is prohibited. For example, the following official statistics include the following facts, that is, in 1935 there were 13,899,100 Turks and 1,480,200 Kurds, while in 1945 already 16,590,500 Turks, but only 1,362,900 Kurds, i.e. 117,300 less than in 1935.<sup>5</sup>

Only Iraqi Government has considered Kurdish minority with the recent "March manifesto" in 1920<sup>6</sup> but curiously enough they manipulated the Kurdish populated area and their numbers for a preconceived political gain. Iraqi Government tried to

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- 4 O'Ballance (Edger), The Kurdish Revolt 1961-1970 (London 1973). Faber and Faber limited, p.19," it was alleged that more than 600,000 Kurds (were) killed between 1915 and 1918 in the eastern villagers of Turkey. Quoted from the Kurds by Hassan Akfa, Oxford University Press (1966).
5. Sovremennaya Turtsia, Moscow 1958; p.28., in A.R. Chassenleu, Kurds and Kurdistan, (Prague 1965), p.21.
- 6 March Manifesto: This is the agreement on the peaceful and democratic settlement of the Kurdish problem announced by the revolution command council on March 11, 1970. (Settlement of the Kurdish problem in Iraq, Ath-thawra publication 1974, p. 5).



take separate census of Kurdish population as an implementation of 'March Manifesto',<sup>7</sup> but Kurdish leader Mustafa Barzani apposed this effort because of manipulation in counting Kurds population and Kurdish area as a result the census could not complete.

For the assessment of the demographic features of Kurdistan, the reliance on Government statistics and data may yield distorted analysis, therefore cross-checks are inevitably necessary. Another way of assessing demographic characteristics is to consider a fresh and exact demarcation of area of Kurdistan for this purpose. It is really very difficult to determine the actual number of Kurds inhabiting the region, primarily because of the political motivations of respective governments in numbering the Kurdish total population.<sup>8</sup>

7 Settlement of the Kurdish problem in Iraq, Ath-thawra publication 1974; p. 139 clause 5. states that "we (Government) have discussed with you (Kurds people) the question of postponing the census only after Mr. Al Barzani had told comrade Murtafha al-Hadithi that you were not prepared to recognise the result of the census if they indicate the presence of an Arab Majority in the enumerated areas.

8 Millet, August 31, 1980; No. 1636, in Ghassemlou A.R., Kurdistan and Kurds (Prague 1965), p. 23.

The other sources have composed the estimates based on scientific bodies, travellers and orientalists of various countries. Western Scientific publications do not differ marked by from the official statistics offered by respective countries. For instance, the Encyclopedia American stated the total number of Kurds to be 1700,000 and Encyclopaedia Britanica 1,500,000. It is, however, quite interesting that already in 1892 the French Government in its yellow book spoke about 8,012,897 Kurds.

The Commission despatched to Kurdistan by the League of Nations in 1925 to investigate the Mesul question state, the figure of 3,200,000 was given as the population of the entire Kurdistan. W. Douglas, Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court declared in 1952 that "nearly one fourth of the sixteen million inhabitants of Iran are Kurds."<sup>9</sup> The Great Soviet Encyclopaedia of 1952 presents 7 (seven) millions Kurds, i.e. 2-3 million in Turkey, 2-2.5 million in Iran and 1-2 million in Iraq in 1939.<sup>10</sup>

The memorandum presented in 1948 to the United Nations by a group of Kurdish intellectuals after the figure of 8 million Kurds residing in Turkey, Iran and Iraq. A.R. Chassemlou has given his estimate that the population of

9. Douglas W., Strange lands and friendly People, (London 1952), p. 55.

10. Balshaya Sovetskaya Entsiklopedia Vol. 24, p. 91 in Chassemlou (A.R.), Kurdistan and Kurds, (Prague 1965), p. 22.

Kurdistan amount to 10,600,000 people and further more reside approximately 1,200,000 as members of the other nationalities and national minorities. The Encyclopedia of Britanica 1971 gives the Kurdish population about 3 to 5 million i.e. Turkey 2,000,000, Iraq 750,000, Iran 150,000 and Syria 250,000.<sup>11</sup> Another estimates<sup>as</sup> given<sup>by</sup> W.B. Fisher the well known expert on the Middle East Geography is as follows.<sup>12</sup>

Population of Kurds

| Countries        | Maximum           | Minimum          |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Turkey        | 8,000,000         | 3,200,000        |
| 2. Iran          | 5,000,000         | 1,800,000        |
| 3. Iraq          | 2,500,000         | 1,550,000        |
| 4. Syria         | 600,000           | 320,000          |
| 5. Lebanon       | 70,000            | 40,000           |
| 6. U.S.S.R.      | 300,000           | 80,000           |
| <b>T O T A L</b> | <b>16,470,000</b> | <b>6,990,000</b> |

~~The population of Kurds in Kurdistan~~

Taking account of all these sources and historical evidences and the present census reports, the Kurdistan population can be estimated between 9 to 12 million. The

11. Encyclopedia of Britania (Seoul 1977)  
Vol. 9 p. 824.

12. Fisher W.B., The Middle East, (London 1978)  
p. 191.

present demarcated area of Kurdistan has 9.45 million population.<sup>13</sup> The demarcated area of Kurdistan consists of 9 provinces of south-eastern Turkey, 3 provinces of north-west Iran and 4 provinces of north eastern Iraq. The total demarcated area is 284413.5 Sq. Km. and has 8,457,240 population according to 1975-76 census.<sup>14</sup> On the basis of this demarcated area, one can assess the demographic feature of the Kurdistan region. Though population figures of Kurdistan are not very much sure but it is significant as it gives fair idea about ethnic or cultural groups.... the situation of population numbers can have the most important political implications.....<sup>15</sup>

#### Population Growth :

There is no separate census for the population of Kurdistan or not even major demographic data on Kurdish population is available. A little effort has been made in Iraqi Kurdistan in 1974 but that also could not materialise due to political reason.<sup>16</sup> Considering that the population

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13. Calculated from Annual Statistical Abstract of Iraq 1976, Statistical yearbook of Turkey 1979, and Iran Year book 1977.
14. Fisher W.B.; n. 13, p. 191.
15. Ibid., p. 269.
16. See Settlement of Kurdish Problem, n. 5.

can become double within 25 years, then new population of Kurdistan should be around 12 to 13 million. The demarcated Kurdistan area's population is 9.45 million which is not far from above estimates.

If you observe the population growth trend from 1945-75 of different provinces of Kurdistan (See Table No. 3), you can find majority of provinces' population is on the decline and subsequent increase i.e. Agri, Bingel, Bitlis, Mardin, Siirt, Kerdistan, Al-Tameem and Dhek. The relatively slow rate of growth between 1940 and 1945 is probably a product of abnormally high mortality and sharp reduced birth rate during the war years since..... this was the period of considerable economic difficulty." <sup>17</sup> Another category of increasing and subsequent decline is in four provinces, i.e., Diyarbakir, Van, West Azarbaijan and Kermanshah. An accelerated decline trend is in the Hakkuri and Mus provinces of Turkey. Arbil and Al-sulemaniyah provinces of Iraq show decelerated increase (See Figure No. 19).

From 1965 to 1975 the population percentages have increased by more than 25% in all provinces of Kurdistan (See Figure No. 20) (Percentage increase of population 1966-1976). <sup>18</sup> Bitlis is the only province where population has increased phenomenally i.e. by 107%. It is because of better agricultural economy in Murat Valley. The very high

17. Dawdney John C., Turkey (London 1971) p. 84.

18. Calculated from U.N. Demographic yearbook 1966 and 1977 and National Census of population and housing, Iran - 1976.

population growth 14.5% to 15% percent is in the province of Van, Hakkari of Turkey, Arbil and Al-sulmaniya of Iraq. The Siirt province of Turkey is also having high rate of growth that is 44%. The Medium type growth rate is in the Bingel, Diyarbakir and Al-Tameem provinces i.e. 35.40%. A low growth rate pattern is found in the Agri, Mus, Mardin and D'he provinces. These provinces are having terraced land with high soil erosion. Turkish Kurdistan Provinces' population has increased more than the National averages. The population increased at very low percentages in the provinces of Kermanshah, West Azurbaijan and Keradistan 125 to 135 per cent. The high percentage increase in the population may be because of the drop in the mortality and especially infant mortality.<sup>19</sup> There are some political reasons for increase in the population percentage, in certain provinces of Turkey and some extent in Iraq, as new Military regiments cause sudden increase in the population figure. In the case of Iraq the reason is that the Baghdad Government forcibly packed more Kurds in the inner autonomous area with the motivation of reducing the geographical extent. In Iran one can find lack of medical facilities specially in rural areas contrary to the most modernised medical care in the metropolitan towns and high mortality rate, brought down the rate of population growth below the national average.

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19. Chaliand Gerad, People Without a Country ;  
The Kurds and Kurdistan (London, 1980) p. 48.

# KURDISTAN

## POPULATION DENSITY

1965

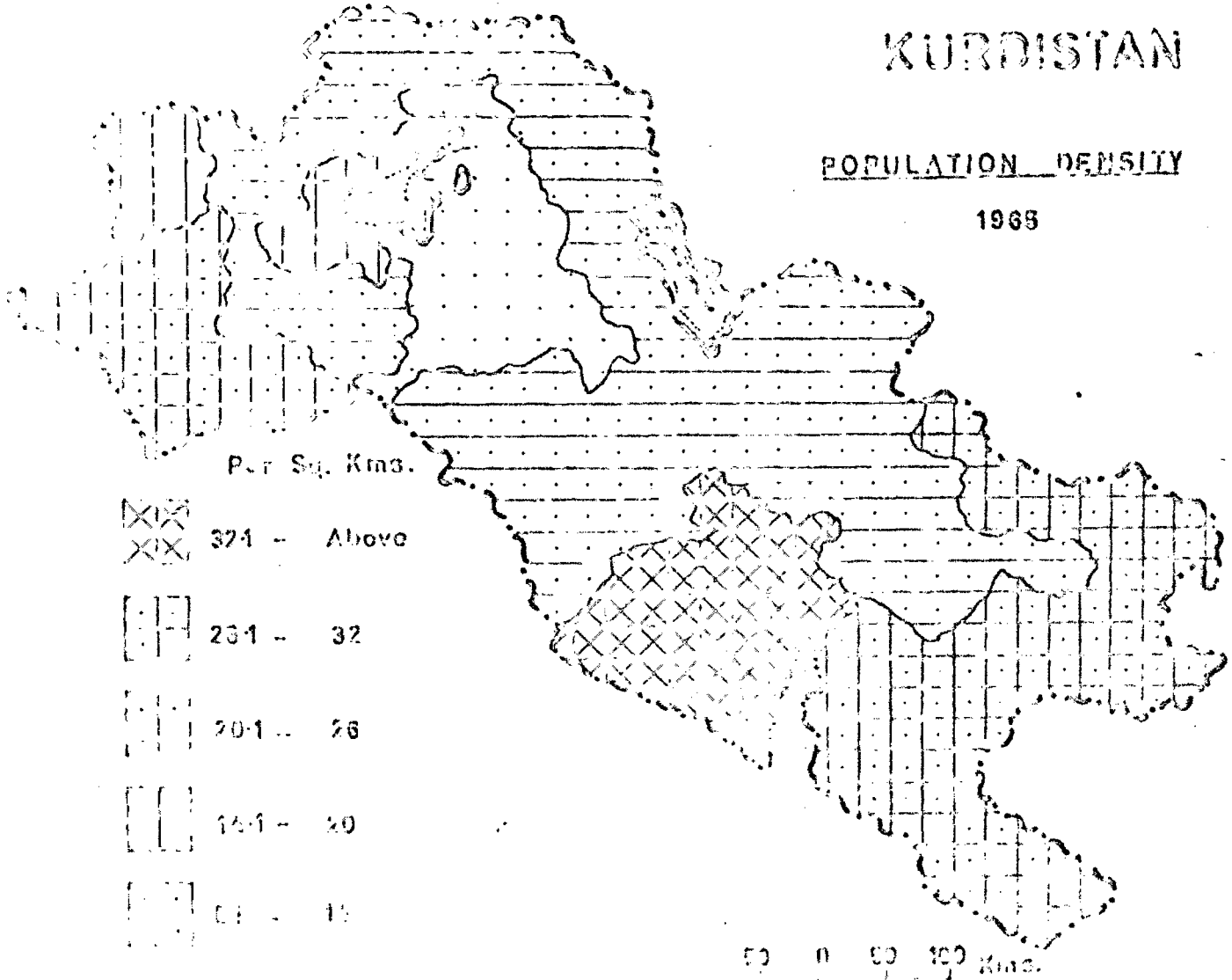


Fig 21

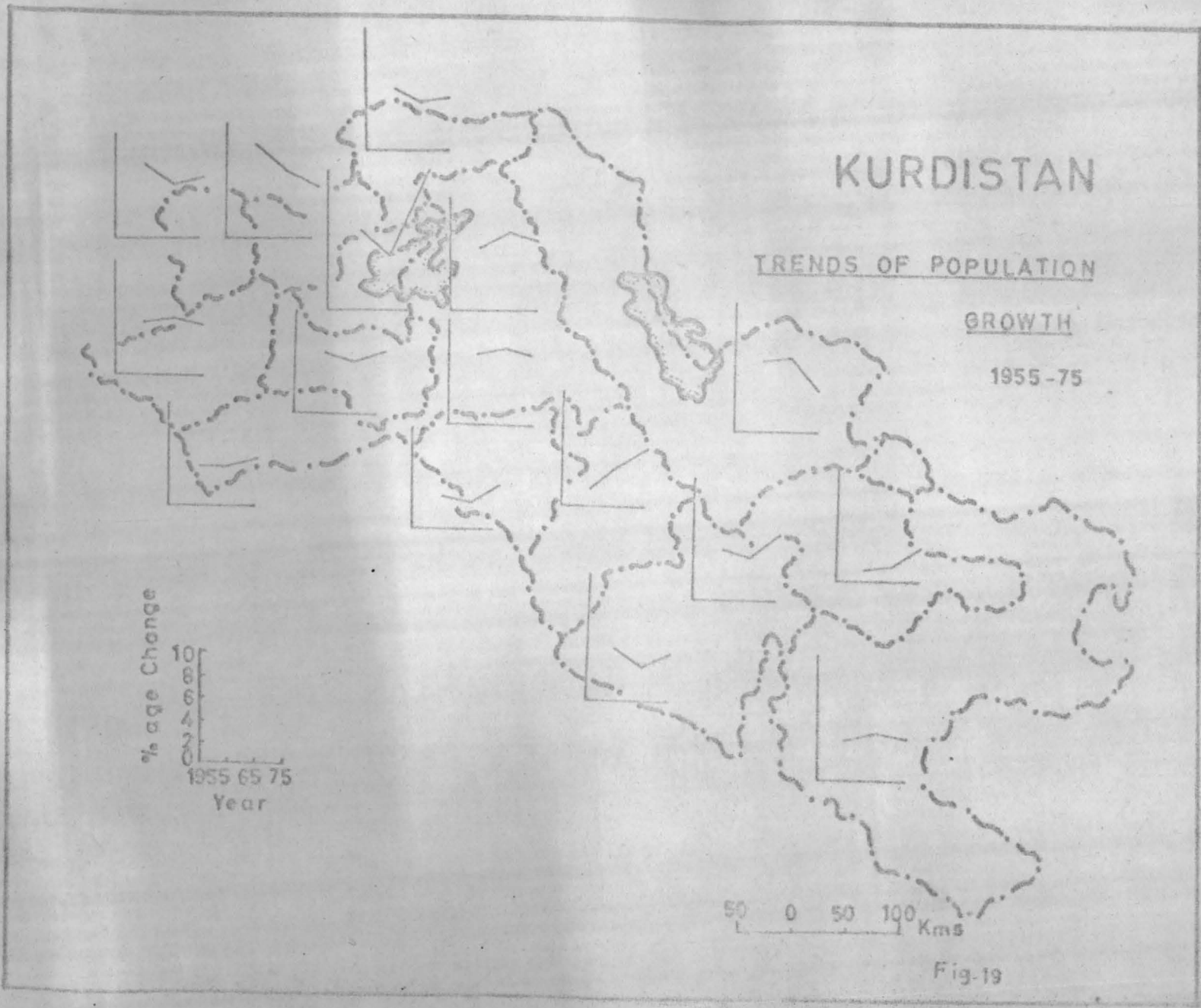


Fig-19



# KURDISTAN

PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN  
POPULATION  
1966-76

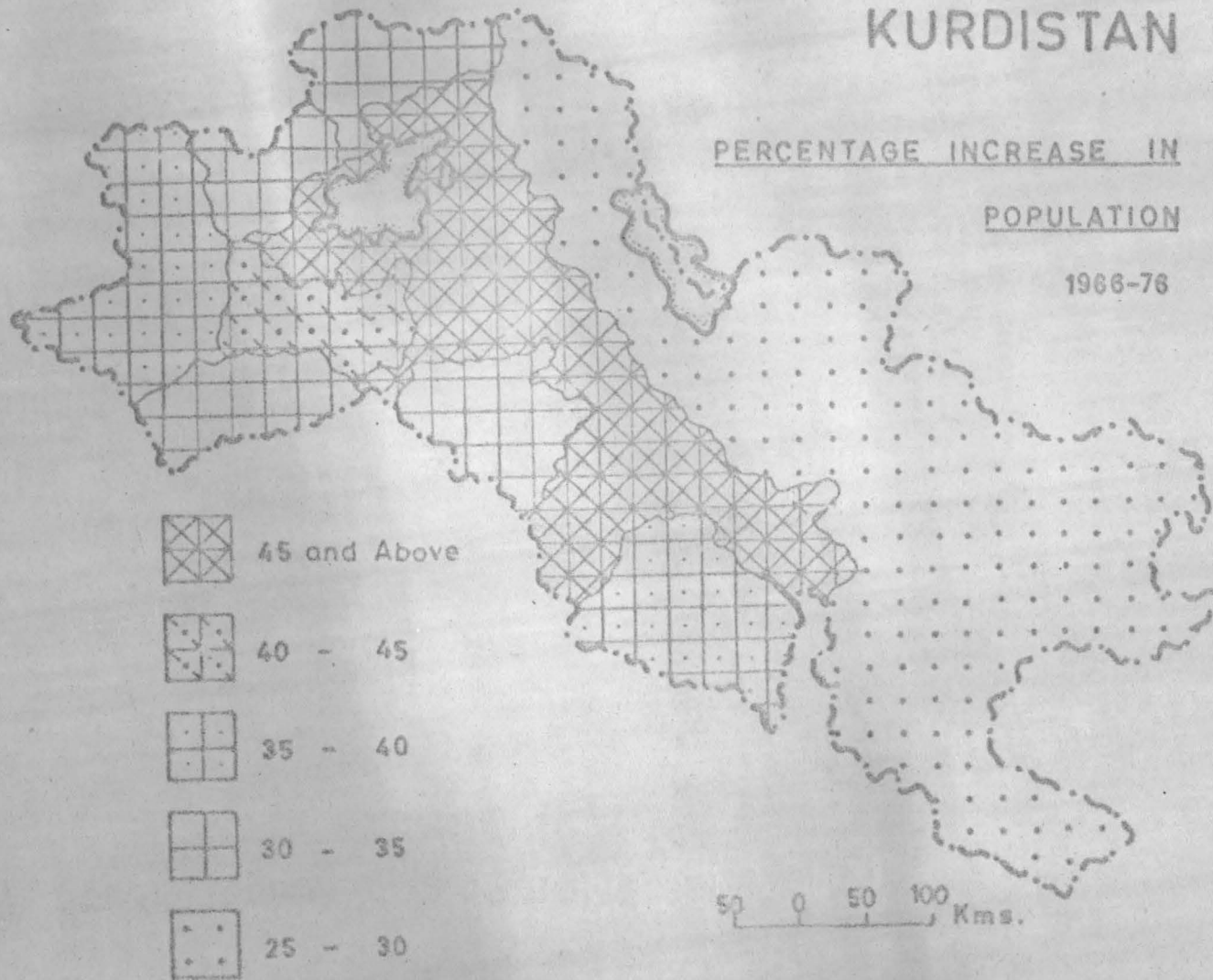


Fig. 20

Population Density - 1965 :

In spite of rapid rate of population increase, the social and economic conditions of the region has responsible for low to medium population densities. The geographical ambience in the form of uneven and dissected topography and harsh climate tending to semi aridity regime plus limited land available for cultivation is responsible for such a spatial distribution of population.<sup>20</sup> The population density of Kurdistan region in 1965 was in the range of 8.50 to 35.30 per Sq. Km. (See Table No. 4)<sup>21</sup>. This fact is applicable for the population concentration in most of the Kurdistan region, although Al-Tameem and Al-Sulemania provinces of Iraq have high density of population, that is around double to the national average of 18.52. This is because of oil wells and oil industries as well as good agriculturable land with a considerable irrigation facilities compared to vast desert land in the southern Iraq (See Figure No. 21). The second category of high density of population i.e. 26.32 per sq. Km is in the Diyarbakir, Mardin and Kermanshah provinces of Iran, as these provinces have considerable agricultural land in the upper basin of Tigris and the plains of Kermanshah. A medium density 20 to 26 per sq. km. is in the Mus, Sirt, Agri provinces of Turkey, Western Azarbaijan and Kurdestan of Iran and Arbil, D'hek provinces of Iraq. Bingel and Bitlis

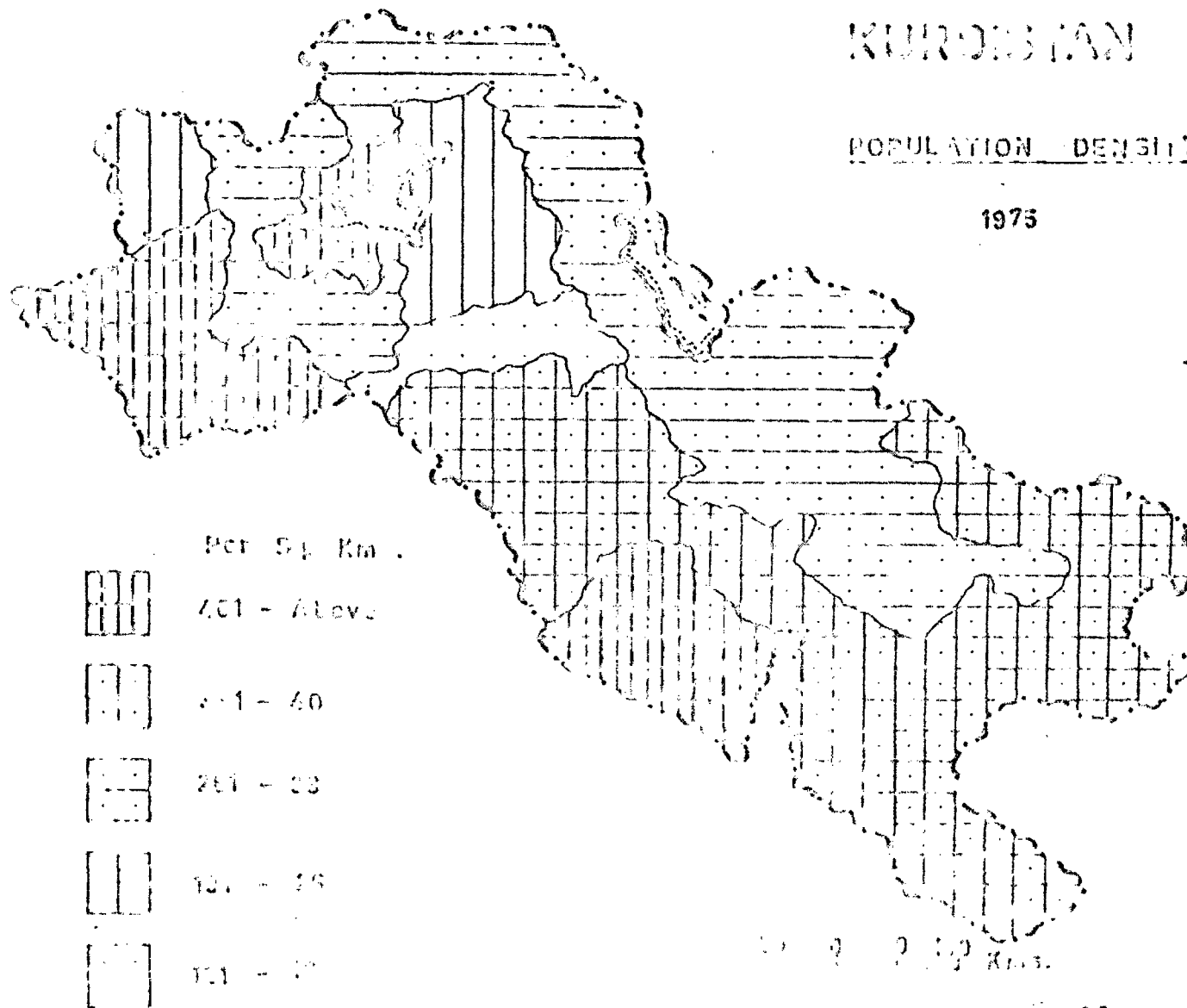
20. Beaumont Pitter, Middle East: A Geographical study, (London, 1976) p. 183.

20. Calculated from U.N. Demographic Yearbook, 1977.

# KURDISTAN

## POPULATION DENSITY

1975



provinces record low density i.e. 14.20 per sq. kms. The lowest density areas are in the Van and Hakkari province where for 4 to 6 months in a year, snow exists alongwith severity of climate, in Eastern Anatolia, rugged relief which restricts the amount of land availability for agriculture, is the main factor, though the harsh winter are an added deterrent to a dense settlement pattern.<sup>22</sup>

#### Population Density 1975 :

The rapid growth rate of population in the region is responsible for a denser population cover in Kurdistan during 1965-1975 (See Table No. 4). A drastic change in population density has taken place in Bitlis provinces presently having 47.69 per sq. km. It is mainly because of the fertile soil and establishment of new vigorous industries. Moreover the case is the same with Diyarbakir, Mardin and Al-Fameem provinces, which has more than 40 persons per sq. kms. (See Figure No. 22). Arbil, D'hek, Al-Sulaimaniya and Kermanshah provinces have high density of population i.e. 33.40 per sq. km. Medium density provinces are Agri, Mus, Siirt, West Azarbaijan and Kurdistan, where the land is unsuitable for settlement and irrigation of Agriculture. There are some exceptionally suitable areas Lake Urmiah plain, where cultivation is being carried out much earlier than in the surrounding areas. The low density areas of 19 to 26 persons per sq. km. are Bingal and Van provinces and very low density Hakkari province, where difficult and complex terrain with deep gorges and steep slopes, high altitude and harsh climate are the main factors.

22. Dewdney J.C., Turkey (London, 1971), p. 79.

Density variations between 1965 and 1975 are many and some provinces had recorded phenomenal change in their density pattern. Such high recording density change areas are mostly in Iraqi parts i.e., in the north-western tracts and on the other hand there <sup>were</sup> some areas in Iranian tracts where the increase rather marginal. Such situation may be due to the better peaceful living conditions in areas other than Iran and concerted efforts to improve the economy of these parts.

#### ETHNIC AND RACIAL CHARACTERISTICS

The Kurds constitute over 85% of the population of Kurdistan, the rest comprising of approximately 400,000 Turks, 300,000 Azarbaizanians, 150,000 Iranians, 250,000 Arabs and 200,000 members of other nationalists e.g., Turkemans Assyrians and Armenians.<sup>23</sup> It is rather a touchy question to distinguish truly Kurds from the others. It is not a matter here to search or identify Kurdish race in the present study. However, one can dwell upon some of the well-known genetic differences.

Northern Kurds are blue eyed, dolichocephalic type whereas the southern and eastern Kurds are brown, black-eyed, brachycephalic type. An eminent anthropologist Fields, H., has taken 590 Kurds as his samples and examined 162 people. He discovered Armenoids types 48, Balkan 12, Modified mediterranean 36, Euro-Anatolia 38, pure or mixed Iranian 4, Alpineid 12, Mongoleid 1, and Negroid 1. The Kurds are not the same every where like Yazidis or Assyrians.<sup>24</sup>

23. Ghesemlou. A.R. Kurdistan and Kurds (Prague, 1965). p. 23.

24. Field H., The Anthropology of Iraq, Part II (London, 1960), p. 48.

H. Fields described Iraqi Kurds physique as follows : medium height (166CM.) relatively long body and short limbs. The forehead and the head is wide and round.<sup>25</sup> The brachycephalics is predominant. The face is medium in size and the nose is quite often convex. The Kurd is more hairy than Arab and his hairs are rather wavy, dark and brown and the eyes black but the blonde hairs and blue eyes are also to be encountered, especially in the western regions. The colour of skin is more clear than that of the Arabs, but less fine than that of Assyrians. The teeth are normal and well placed.

Among the Kurds there are different types of tribes and sub-tribes and live in separate more or less defined areas because the villages have restricted intercourse among themselves except seasonal migrations along with the herds of livestock. However, many a times these villages are one family settlements. This large family developed very often changes into a sub-tribes which<sup>are</sup> about 10 in numbers as follows.<sup>26</sup>

The Milli (Mehrani) Kurds : is infact the biggest single unit of the Kurdish people widely dispersed. They have lot of inter-mixture of the Iranians, however, there are Turks, the Getu and the Arabic speaking people among them and they mostly inhabits Diyarbakir and Mardin provinces and speak Kirmanji dialect of Kurdish language.

25. Ibid. p. 35.

26. Waheed W.A., Kurds and their Country : A History of Kurds people, ed. 2 (Lahore 1958) p. 170.

The Guran famous Kurdish tribe inhabit the plains of west and south western Iran - being the densest around Kirmanshah - the famous town of Western Iran.

Girgiriya Kurds live mostly on the Turke-Iranian border, mostly in Van and Hakkari provinces. They are semi-nomadic and as per rough estimates, they are 20 to 25 thousands in number. The Gurgiriya Kurds are a fine specimen of manhood. The Batwan is a sub-tribe practising both agriculture as well as pasture lands.

The Hassian Tribes originally of Kurdish stock but now they are thoroughly Arabicized. They live around Mosul. They are settled cultivators, growing mostly wheat, barley and maize etc.

The Juffs of Iran are found in south of Lake Urmiyah along the Iran-Iraq border. They basically live as herdsmen and depend entirely on live stock for their livelihood. Juffs are now around 12 thousands.

The Kakai Kurds live around Kirkuk and Sulaimaniya and is the important tribe called Kakai. They are Shia in faith and to be more-exact a very extreme type of Shias.

The Khesheh Kurds live around Arbil and Shaklawa. They are handsome, healthy and mentally alert people and are warriors by nature. They are more advanced than rest of the Kurdish tribes.

The Pishder and the Hawraman Kurds live in Sulemaniya province of Iraq and also in Iran with Hamawand sub-tribes. They are influential, very hospitable and well-informed people.

The hamwands sub-tribes live in eastern fringes of Iran and are about 20 thousands in number. Along with Gurah tribes, the Khailati, the Qadir, Mir, the Bajalam, the Dalu and in the Talabani Kurds sub-tribes are the south-west Iranian Kendastav area.

Religious composition: The religion of the majority of Kurds is Islam and an overwhelming part of the Muslim Kurds are Sunnis. The small numbers of Shiis live mostly in southern Kurdistan, in the area of Kermanshah and in the impassible hilly tracts of north Iraq around Arbil and Rawanduz. In matter of religion, Kurds are very tolerant as Christians, particularly the Armenian christians have lived for centuries among them.

In Turkish Kurdistan, 99% Kurds are muslims. There are also about 30,000 Nesterian and Assyrians Christians and about 30,000 Yazide's living west and north of Mesul.<sup>27</sup> In Iranian Kurdistan, 98% Kurds are muslims.<sup>28</sup> The remaining 2% are Armenian and Assyrian christians and some jews.

27. The new Encyclopedia Britania, William Benton (Seoul 1977) p. 876.

28. National census of population and Housing November, 1976. No. 186 (Iran 1981).



Baghdad yearbook 1923 published by AL-Iraq press,  
 Baghdad compiled by British authorities in 1920 census table.  
 This being given as latest data is not compiled to give this  
 information at least this will give a rough estimate of the  
 religion composition of population in Iraqi Kurdistan.

|             | Sunni    | Shiah   | Jews  | Christian | Others | Total   |
|-------------|----------|---------|-------|-----------|--------|---------|
| Mosul       | 244713   | 17180   | 7635  | 50670     | 30180  | 350378  |
| Arbil       | 96100    | -       | 4800  | 4100      | 1000   | 106000  |
| Kirkuk      | 85000    | 5000    | 1400  | 600       | -      | 92000   |
| Sulaimaniya | 153900   | .       | 1000  | 100       | -      | 155000  |
| -----       |          |         |       |           |        |         |
| TOTAL :     | 15146685 | 1433015 | 87488 | 78792     | 31180  | 2849282 |
| -----       |          |         |       |           |        |         |

Source : Richard Coke, The heart of the middle  
 east, Thornton Butterworth Ltd. (London,  
 1925).

In Iraqi Kurdistan most of the Kurds are sunni sect, and some  
 Kurds are of shiia sect, specially in the south. In the  
 D'hek region (in Iraq) there are some 150,000 believers of  
 Yezidi religion.

Though Kurds are mostly muslims, either Shia or  
 sunni sects but at micro-level they have many variant local  
 types. For example, Kizzalbash are not Iranians but are Kurds  
 and speak Kirmanji. They are originally from the Zagros mount-  
 ains. They have from place of the origin is Shia, but  
 totally different to the Iranian Shia. Ali Olahis is  
 another type of Muslim Kurds called Aliolahis. These Ali  
 Olahi Kurds are a sort of Half pagan but converted to

Islam.<sup>29</sup> Among the Guran Kurds the shrine of Baba Yadgar, located in a gorge above the old city of Halwan is regarded with superstitious veneration.

Leaders of the different Sunni Sects (tariqat), is so called shaikh who still exercise a strong influence throughout Kurdistan. Every murid must pay at least one yearly visit to his shaikh and deliver presents to him, for which he then receives blessings. A young Kurdish priest, mullah, will receive his diploma from a renowned religious dignitary and will then be sent to a village. They are living in close contact with the rural population and well aware of their poverty and deplorable living conditions. These young intellectuals are only literate people in their villages and usually become active participants in the national liberation army.

Either in terms of ethnicity or religion, there is certain amount of homogeneity in the region but one can find local marked variations. The common masses feel that they should not be interfered on the account.

### Language

Kurdish is an Indo-European language and is written in Arabic script. It is a mixture of the Persian and Turkish language with the foundation of the ancient chaldean and the Turanian language. All people in Kurdistan mostly speak

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29. Ali-Olahis are very much like a certain class of Muslim converts of central India belonging to the lower strata of society who celebrate 10 days of Moharram in a typical "Dussehra style". S.A. Waheed, Kurds and Kurdistan (Lahore, 1958), p. 5.

Kurdish, however, it is very difficult to give estimate of Kurdish speakers in this demarcated area, as data is not available, may be because of respective governments' motive to keep restriction on separatist tendency of different ethnic groups in their country. Turkish government had totally banned Kurdish in 1925,<sup>30</sup> the people living in eastern high mountains regions have forgotten their original language. They described them as mountain Turks. In Iran when Mahabad Kingdom<sup>31</sup> (1945-46), Kurdish was officially reviewed otherwise to-day, it is banned. Their official language is only Persian and there is not a single school where teaching is carried out in Kurdish.

In spite of these political restrictions and unavailability of data W.B. Fisher (1978) has given his estimate of Kurds with their mother tongues as Kurdish is that 32,00,000 in Turkey, 1800,000 in Iran, and 1550000 in Iraq.<sup>32</sup> A degree of dense Kurdish population is in the south and South Eastern Kurdistan and, in the northern Turkish and West Azerbaijan province, the density is sparse. Kurdish does not yet has unified literary form. There are two prevailing dialects in Kurdish language (1) Kermanji (2) Sorani. The Kermanji

30. Chaliand G., n. 18 p. 49

31. See Map by J.H.G. Leben in East W.G., Spate O.H.K. (ed.) The changing Map of Asia, A Political Geography. (London 1971), 5th ed. p. 66.

32. Fisher W.B. n. 3. p. 191.

dialect is spoken in the north western part of Kurdistan. Kurds settled in Turkish Kurdistan around Dersim speak Zaza sub dialect is used. The Sorani dialect is spoken in the south eastern part of Kurdistan, i.e., south of the imaginary line connecting Rawanduz in Iraq with Urmiah in Iran.

The Kirmanji dialect prevailed in literature until World War I, but after the prohibition of Kurdish language in Turkey and, due to the simultaneous growth of national liberation struggle of Kurds in Iran and Iraq, it was the Sorani dialect that began to prevail in the Kurdish literature. Present days Sorani dialects is becoming the chief dialect used in the present day Kurdish literature.

In Turkey not a single publication is available openly and it is illegal to publish anything in Kurdish. Despite the rigours of repression, Kurdish literature political textes are secretly circulated.<sup>33</sup> All such publications are printed in the Latin characters adopted for Kurdish by the Bedirkaha brothers in the Thirties. In Turkey and in Iran Kurdish is prohibited in schools otherwise except only in Iraq, after revolution of 1958. Kurdish speaker in Turkish Kurdistan is comparatively less even though majority of the population is Kurdish speaking in Agri, Bitlis, Diyarbakir, Hakkari, Mardin, Siirt and Van provinces. In Mus and Bingel provinces around 50% people are Kurdish speaking. In Bitlis province near about 6% people are Arabic and Siirt and Mardin near about 17% to 35% people are

33. Ghaleand G., n. 18, p. 49.

# KURDISTAN

RURAL DENSITY

1975

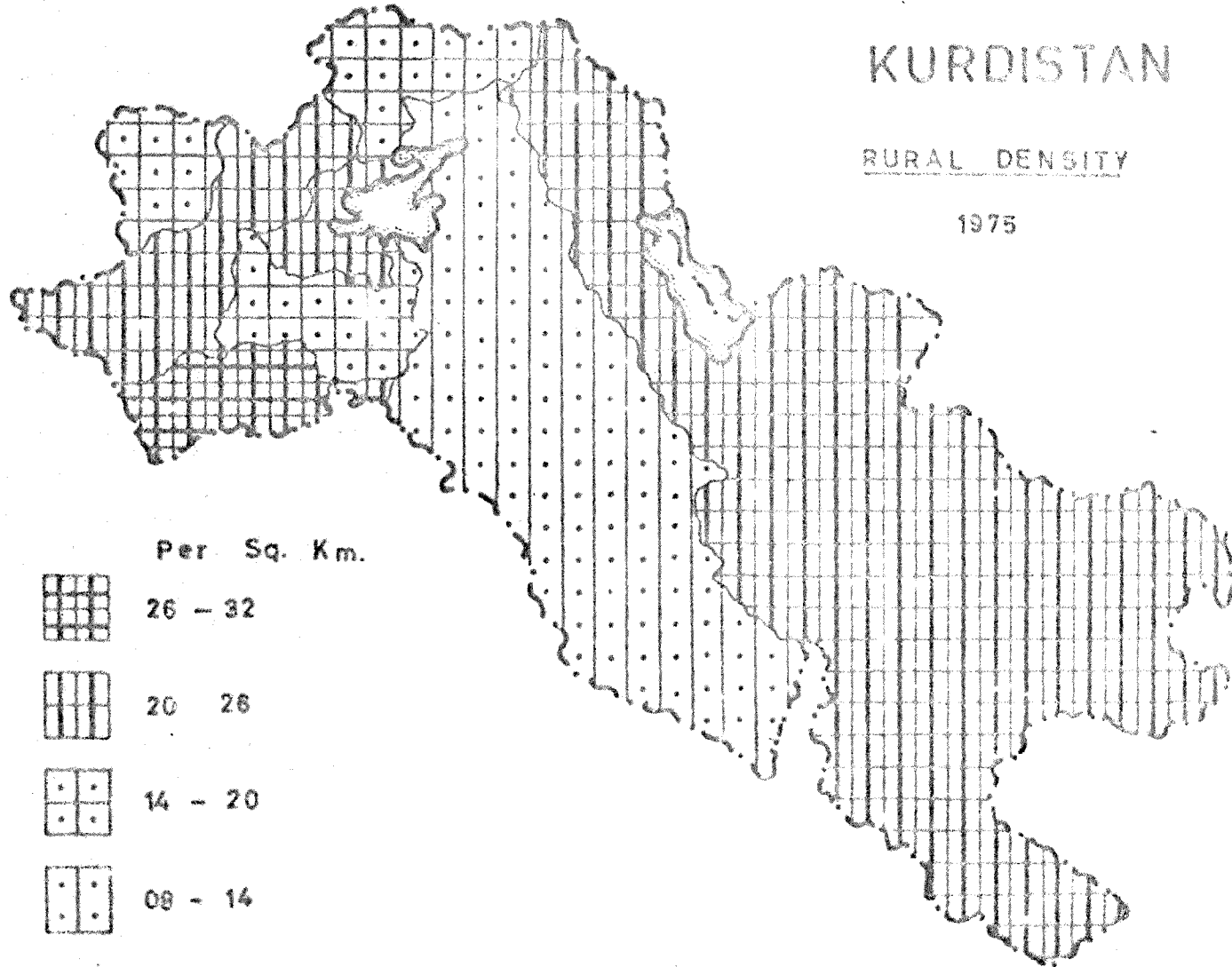


Fig. 23

Arabic speaking. In Bingel and Mus provinces Kurdish and Turkish are more or less in the same numbers.

Edmonds (Edmonds 1957), on the basis of personal knowledge of area estimated that the entire population of the province of Sulaimaniya is Kurdish and that Kurds composed 9 per cent and 53 per cent respectively of the total population of the provinces of Arbil and Kirkuk.<sup>34</sup> In Iranian Kurdistan few Turkish speaker in north west Azarbaizan province and little of Arabs and Turks in Southern province of Kermanshah.

#### RURAL DENSITY

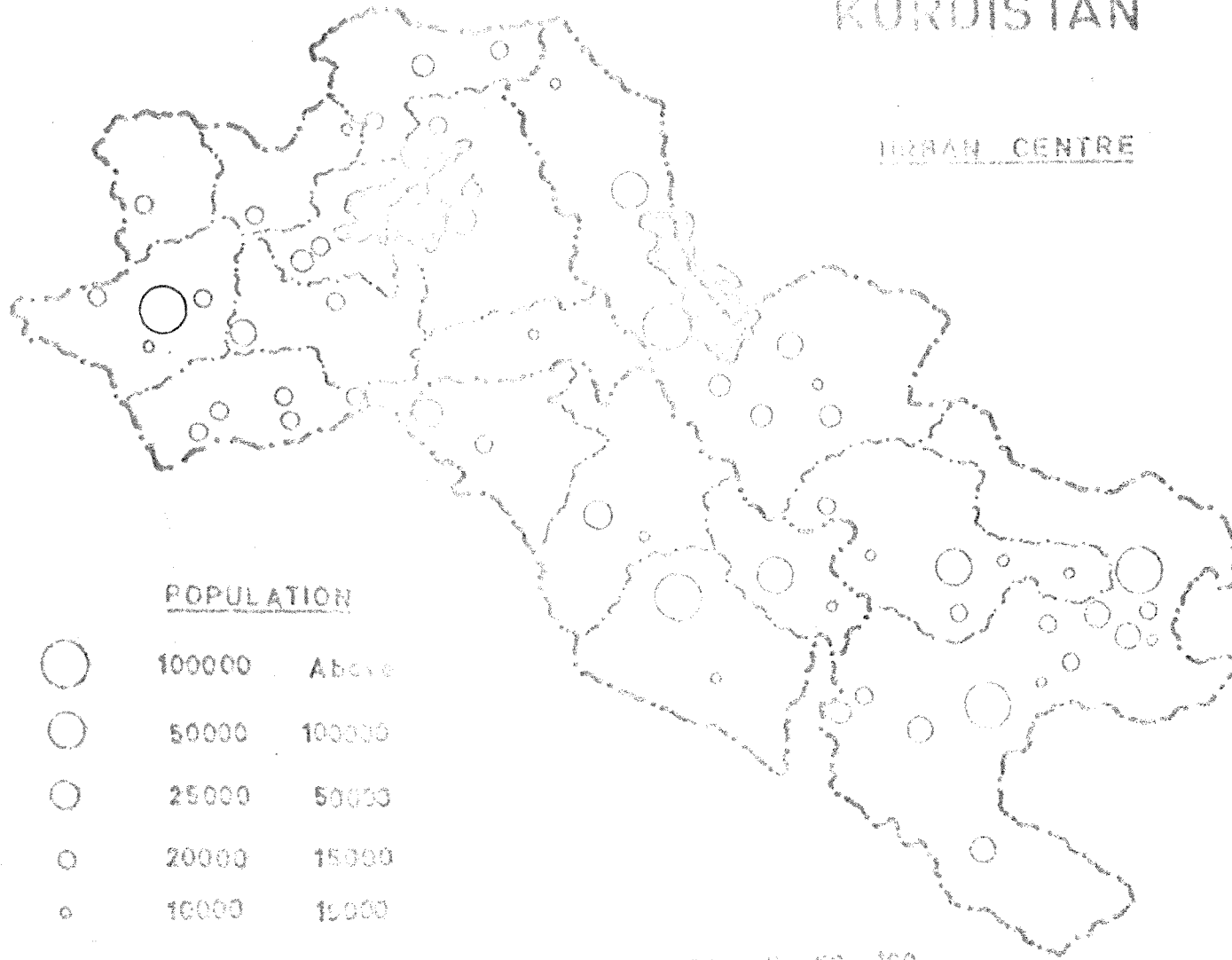
In general, the areas with a high density of rural population at the present time are those parts which have always been the most attractive for agriculture development.<sup>35</sup> In some areas of Kurdistan, the development of agriculture with the provision of assured water supply, there is increase in rural density for example Bitlis province in Turkey and south western plains of Urmiyah Lake (See Figure No. 23). The density pattern in Zagros and Taurus mountain is far more complex as the settlement varies from intensive oasis type agriculture carried out by a settled population for example in Kermanshahan, Kurdistan Bitlis, Mus and Mardin provinces.

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34. Lawless R.I., Iraq : changing population pattern; in (J.I) Clark and Fisher W.B. (ed)., Population of the Middle East and North Africa ; A Geographical Approach (London, 1972). p. 103.
35. Clark J.I. and Fisher W.B. (ed); Population of the Middle East and North Africa (London, 1972). p. 79.

# KURDISTAN

IRANIAN CENTRE



0 50 100 Kms.

Fig. 24

The map of rural population density of Kurdistan region (1975) <sup>shows</sup> the following.

The rural density areas with 26 to 32 persons per sq. km. are Bitlis and Mardin provinces where the settled agriculture is the norm with a fertile soil and the better transport facilities (i.e. rail routes mainly constructed for all mineral exploration). The population density between 20 to 26 per sq. km. is in Diyarbakir, Mus, W. Azarbaizan, Kermanshah, Kurdistan and Sulaimaniya and the areas with 10 to 20 person per sq. km. are in the province of Siirt, Bingol and Agri. The lowest density group in the Van, Mardin, Arbil, Dhek and Al-Tameem provinces (See Table No. 5).

The rural population density pattern is directly a development over the physico-climatic characteristics and availability of suitable land for cultivation.

#### Urban Centres :

The total urban population is less in proportion as compared to the dominant rural population, primarily due to difficult terrain *hwartas* any communication and poor economic base not encouraging any urban function. Even to some extent the instable political situation for years together has not permitted settled urban population. The growth of urban centres, surprisingly has been very rapid, particularly in Iraqi Kurdistan, D'hek and Zakhe have experienced very rapid growth during the last inter-censal period and rural migrant must represent an important part of this increase.<sup>36</sup> Some of urban cities in Iraq and Turkey,

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36. Lawless R.I., n. 33, p. 122.



# KURDISTAN

SEX RATIO  
1975

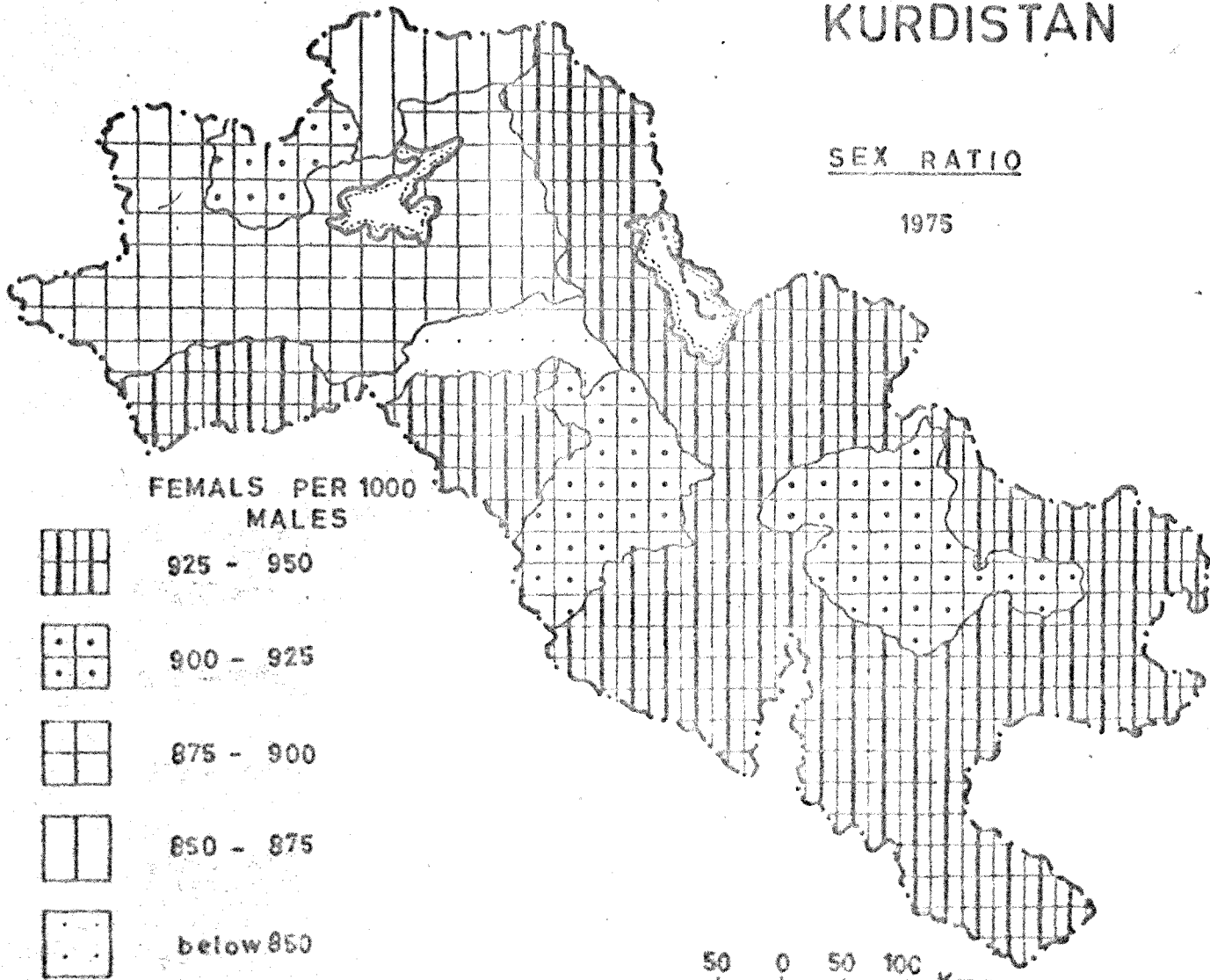


Fig. 25

these urban nodes have developed 3 to 4 times bigger within 10 years of time. Silvan in Diyarbakir province increase by 4.56 times from 1965 to 1975. It seems that the good linkages have resulted into the rapid growth in association with recent economic establishments. In Kurdistan total number of cities having more than 10,000 population are 58.<sup>37</sup> Out of this 4 cities have more than one lakh population these are three in Iran, Kermanshah, Urmiah and Hamadan and one in Iraq (Kirkuk). The cities with 50,000 to 100,000 population are 6; two in each countries of Kurdistan area (See Figure No. 24). Eight cities in Iran and 1 in Turkish Kurdistan has a population between 25,000 to 50,000. There are 8 cities of the size of 20 to 25 thousand population and 12 cities of 15 to 20 thousand population (See Table No. 6). The cities with population of 10 to 15 thousand are 8, 4 and 5 in the Iran, Iraq and Turkey respectively. Most of the cities are unfunctional performing vital services to the surrounding rural country side. There are some which are basically industrial in nature. Diversified centres are less in number. Considering the terrain, the nature of society and economy, it could be surmised that urban development cannot be all pervading and enormous.<sup>38</sup>

Sex Ratio : Comparatively sex structure of Kurdistan population is very much skewed as there are 50 to 150 males

37. Calculating from different sources.

38. Data on workers category is not available otherwise one can attempt the functional classification of the urban cities.

# KURDISTAN

ILLITARACY RATE

1975

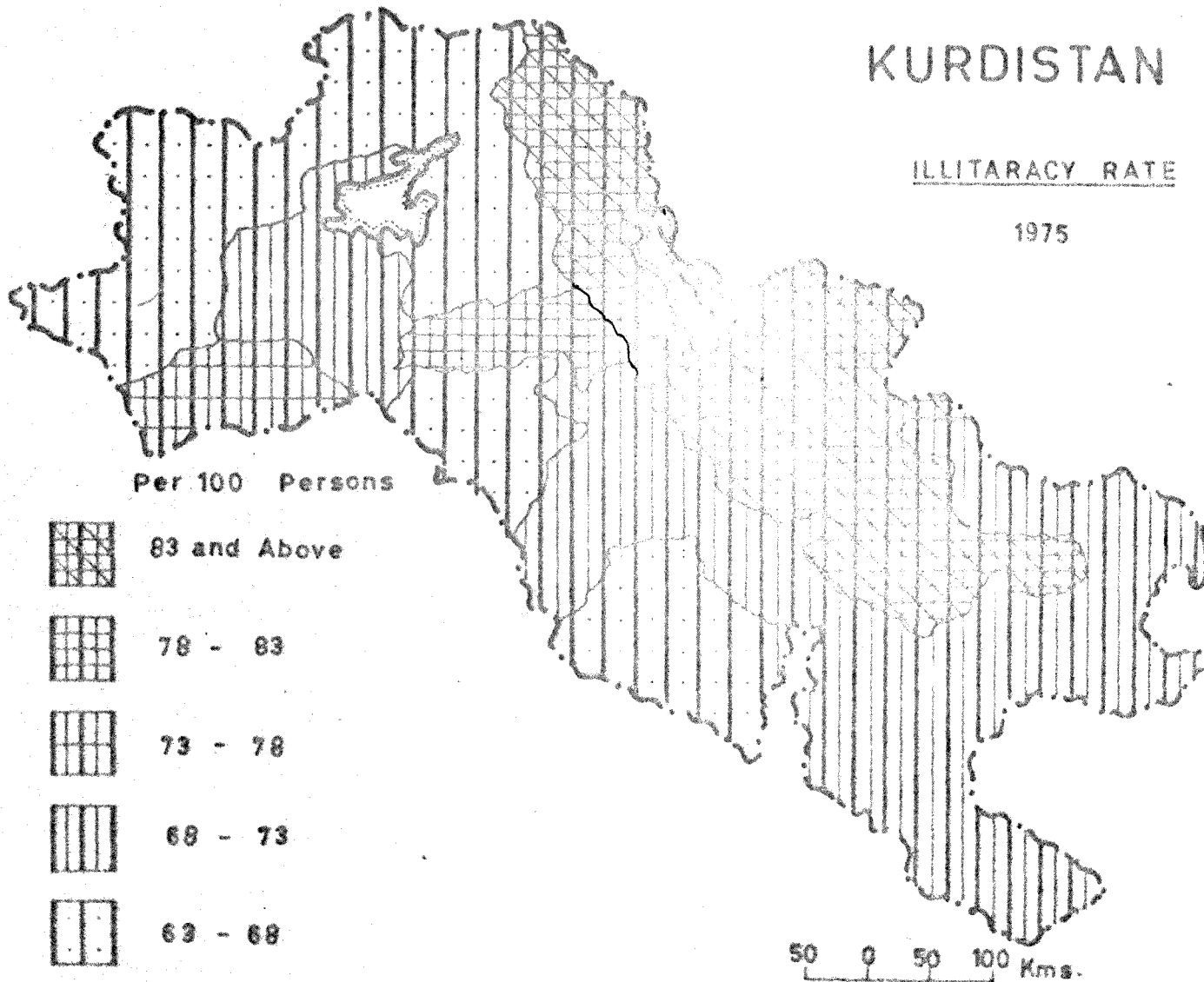


Fig. 26

in excess per 1000 females (See Table No. 7) particularly in North western Kurdistan region and high mountainous plateau area where disparity is more (See Figure No.25). The lowest sex ratio (females to per 1000 males) is in the Hakkari province i.e. 846.3 female per 1000 males and highest in the D'hek Province (950 females to per 1000 males) though both provinces have one boundary. A very high sex ratio in Kurdistan region is, in the West Azarbaizan, Kermanshahan, Al-Tameem, Al-Sulemaniya and Murdin (925.1-950 females). A high sex ratio (900.1-925 females) is in the province of Mus, Arbil and Kerdistan. A medium type of sex ratio (875.1-900) is in the provinces of Bingel Diyarbakin, Siirt, Van and Bitlis. And a low sex ratio (850.1 to 875 females) is in the Agri province of Kurdistan region has a very low sex ratio than surrounding area. This could reflect a variety of factors including the high fertility and mortality already suggested the failure of the Kurdistan to migrate towards area of economic expansion and possibly same under recording of females.<sup>39</sup>

Occupational Structure : Stock rearing and agriculture are the dominant occupations of the Kurdish population. The recent Government's law regarding land in Turkey and land reforms in Iran and Iraq, have been responsible for the change in the occupational structure of the Kurdish society. A sedentization taking place in the nomads and semi-nomads of the Kurdish tribes.

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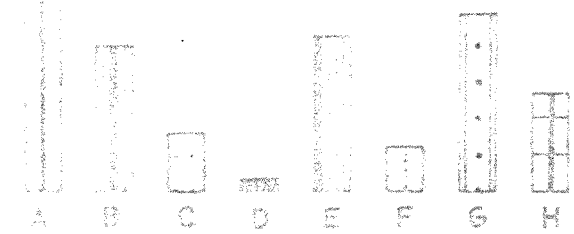
39. Dawdney J.C., Turkey : Recent population trends; in Clark J.I. and Fisher W.B. (ed). (London, 1972), p. 56.

# WORKERS CATAGORIES

1975

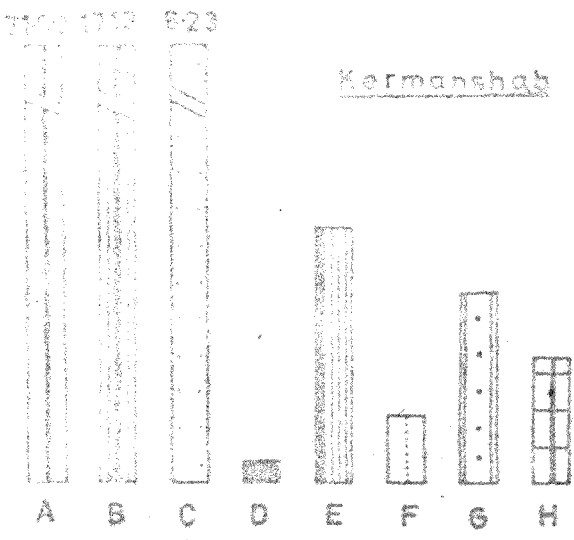
2096  
% OF WORKERS

West Azerbaijan



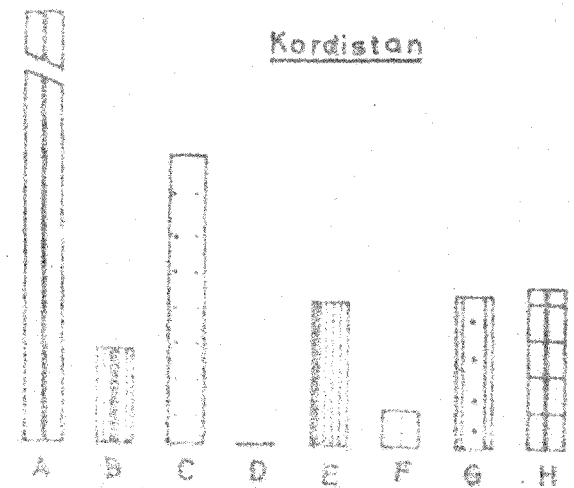
1400  
% OF WORKERS

Kermanshah



1000  
% OF WORKERS

Kordistan



- A Agriculture
- B Industry
- C Construction
- D Water And Electricity
- E Trade
- F Transport
- G Services
- H Others

Fig. 27

Dependent population : Taking a case of Iranian Kurdistan 35 to 37 per cent population comes under dependent population category.<sup>40</sup> In West Azarbaizan province 519398 people out of total 1430688 are dependent which constitute 36.31% of the total population. The dependancy ratio in some provinces is 57%. In Kirmanshah province 35.30% population is dependent and which constitute 62 as a dependancy ratio.

Categories of Workers : Agriculture and stock rearing is the dominant one with 70 to 90% of working population engaged in it (See Table 9). Similar to Iranian Kurdistan, the whole of Kurdistan region, has almost the same pattern in terms of workers in this category. In the province of West Azarbaizan 90.98%<sup>41</sup> population engaged in Agricultural activities. And only 1.63% population engaged in Industrial Sector. There is no working population engaged in water and electricity work. Other than Agriculture sector, trade and service sector having considerable working population that is 2.28 and 2.44 percent respectively. Transport and construction having 0.57 and 0.81 percent working population. The population engaged in the mining and petroleum to the extent of 4 to 6 per cent population are in Siirt<sup>42</sup> and Al-Tumcem province. Similar pattern could be found elsewhere. However, the data for other parts is not available, therefore, exact analysis cannot be done.

40. Government of Iran considered 10 years and above as working population; census of Iran 1976 (Iran 1981).

41. National census of population and Housing November 1976 (Iran 1981).

42. Clerk J.I. and Fisher W.B., n. 38, p. 62.

# KURDISTAN

## HOSPITALS AND DOCTORS

2 MM: 1 Hospital  
10MM: 1 Doctor

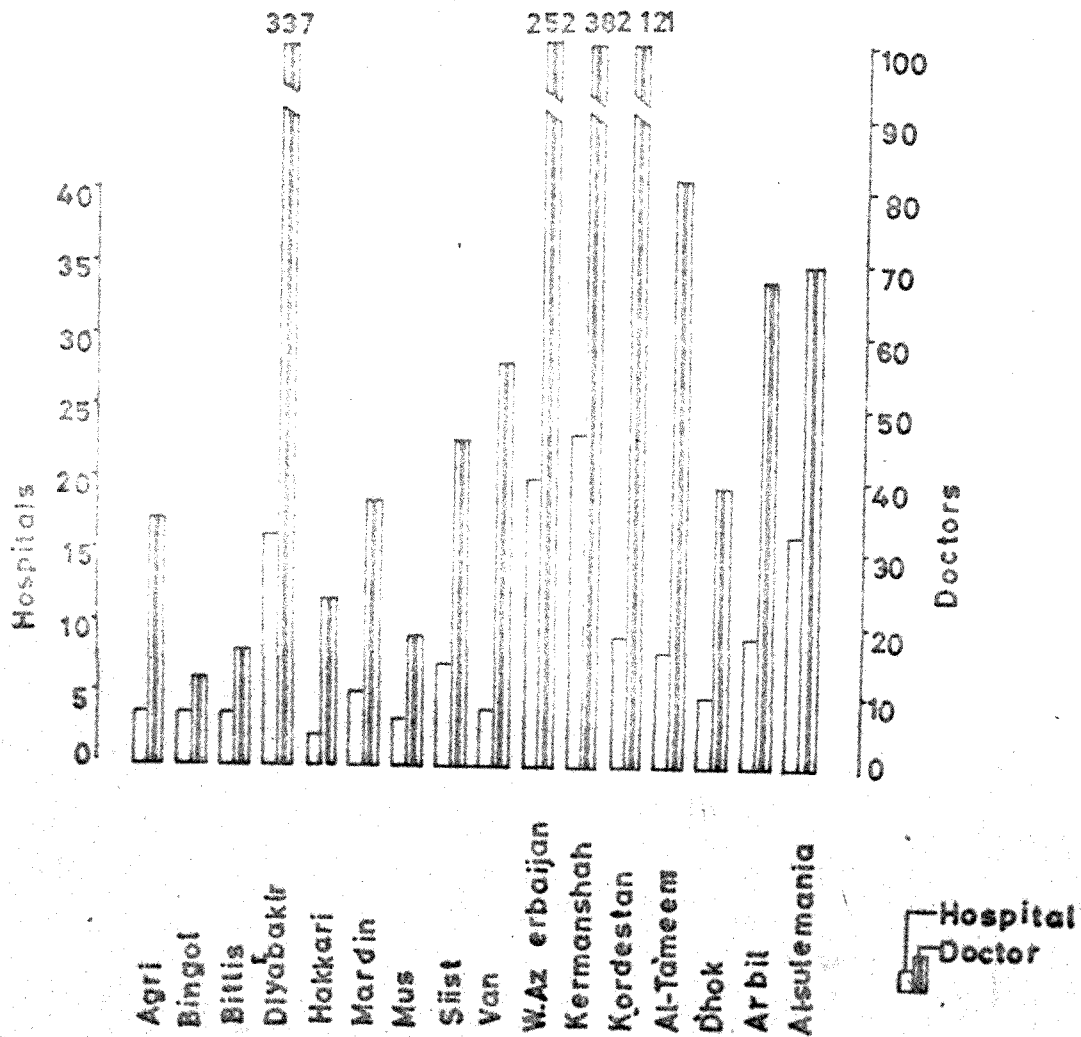


Fig. 28

Kurds are very backward in term of education and literacy rates are rather low. After half a century under a democratic secular regime, Turkish Kurdistan has 72% of people over six years of age still cannot write or read.

In the case of Iranian region, the condition is still worst and the literacy is very low. The high percentage of illiterate population is in the Kurdistan province of Iran (86.4%). More than 70% illiterate population is in the provinces of Hakkuri, Mardin, Siirt and Arbil and in some areas of seuther western provinces of Kurdistan it is more than 80% illiterate population e.g., the provinces of W. Azarbaijan and Kerdistan of Iran. Even to-day most Kurdish village<sub>s</sub> do not have a primary school. Out of 18 Universities, in Turkey there is only one university that too also out of demarcated Kurdistan region, one Medical college at Diyarbakir and four engineering and teachers' training colleges (1975). Even in these institutions, Kurdish students were in minority. Where in Iraqi Kurdistan the condition of educational facilities is better. With a 1885 primary school (Kurdish language introduced in Kurdish area after 1958) and 200 secondary schools. Medical care is inadequate in towns and non-existence in the country side (See Table No. 10). In Kurdistan region there are 126 hospitals with 9244 beds and 1587 doctors as against 9.45 million people. There is only one doctor for 6000 inhabitants. In 1970 there were 4.3 doctors to every 10,000 inhabitants in Turkey, but in Kurdistan, there was only 1 doctor per 10,000 inhabitants. In other words, Turkey had 4.3 times more doctors than Kurdistan area.



Neither quantitatively nor qualitatively Kurdistan region has a balanced demographic structure. The natural and socio-economic environment is responsible for such a situation, as it does not allow high population densities and high urban population numbers. The socio-political situation is responsible for poor living conditions and large dependant population and dominant primary sector. It is a poorly served area in terms of essential services as compared to the rest of constituent nation states of Iran, Iraq and Turkey. The economic base is rather poor, although the natural endowments are sufficient to permit sizeable industrial development. The answer to this could be found in the discriminatory policies of the various government.

**CHAPTER V**

**ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE**

CHAPTER V

ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE

Kurdistan area has a resource base but because of complex physiography, unsuitable climate and poor infrastructure it is regarded less endowed area. A folded land of Kurdistan contains several minerals but owing to the problem of linkages several of these minerals are of no use. Poverty of resources increases as there is large scale flow of resources outside. Even the social framework and institutional arrangements have been such that they have not properly encouraged an affluent situation evenly. It has mostly primary resources, mostly in the form of vegetation, limited cultivated fields and livestock etc. Human resources are qualitatively good but could not be harnessed to the utmost because of proper training and technological inputs.

(a) Natural Vegetation

From biographical and ecological points of view, the area has marked variation in vegetation. These variations are mainly due to four main factors :

i) Climatic situation : Variations in temperature and partly in precipitation play significant role. The high land of northern Kurdistan has icy air mass and the plains of lower Tigris have full summer influence leading to semi-arid to arid conditions.

ii) Physiographical regions : It has several regions as per plant species. The complexity of natural vegetation is highest in Zagros mountain as compared to south and south east of Kurdistan.

# KURDISTAN

## NATURAL VEGETATION

BUSE: CRESSEY G.B.,

CROSSROAD. (CHICAGO 1980)

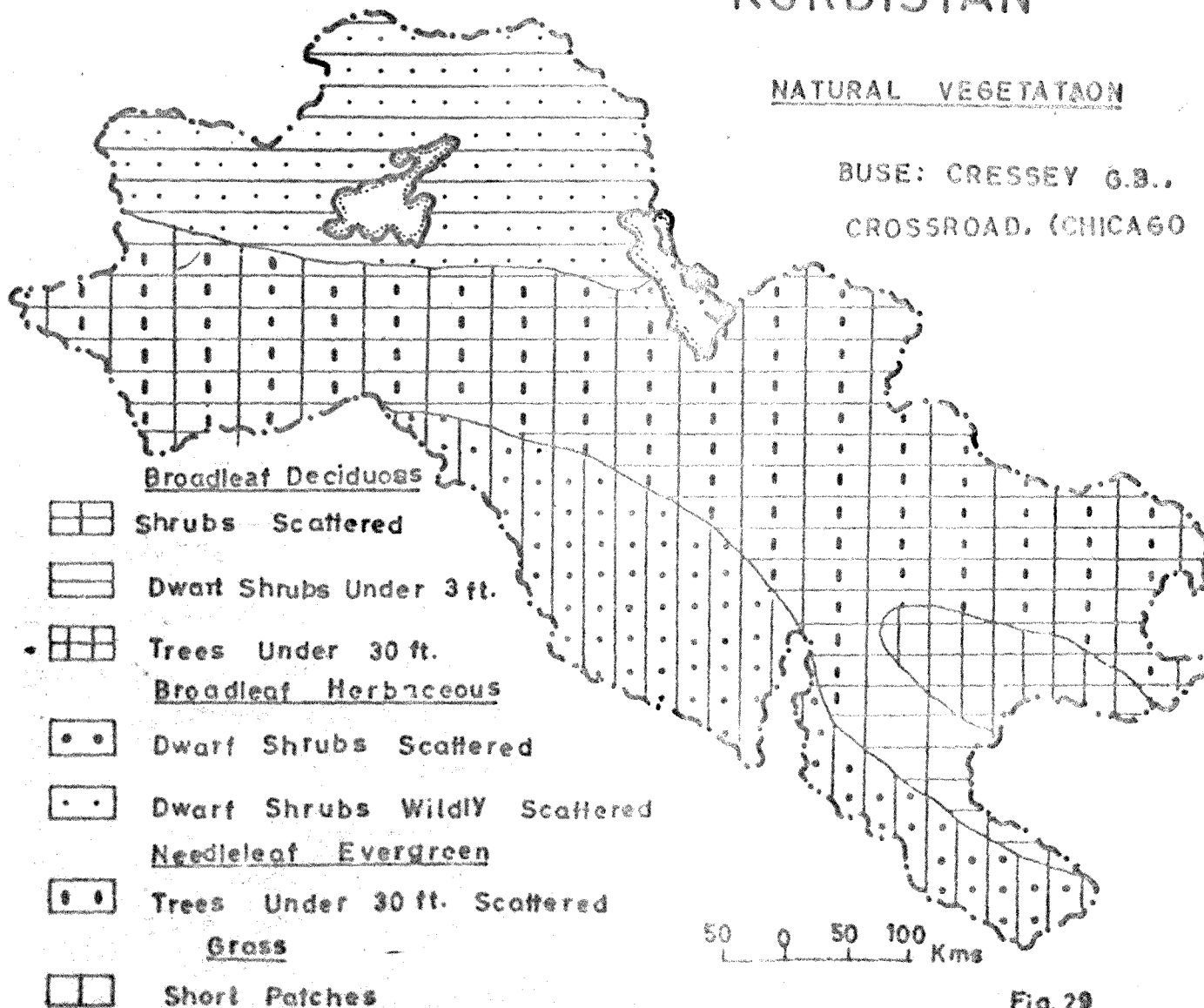


Fig. 29

iii) Varied topography : Accentuates the marked influence of climatic variations. Frequently it brings together many natural vegetation species but they are marked by least vegetation cover area in the south.

iv) Impact of human activity upon the vegetation has been heavy because of methods of cultivation and commercial use of many varieties. Further incessant heavy grazing over the slopes for centuries has been further responsible for the damage.

The natural vegetation map drawn after Charles Weelever<sup>1</sup> in Kurdistan has the following marked areas :

Broadleaf Deciduous : Vegetation spreads over the shrubs Zagros high mountain ranges and the Ostaurus mountains. There are shrubs and trees which have well-defined seasonal rhythm. Firs and other conifers along with often scrub and junipers are important. The dwarf shrubs are found in the northern Kurdistan and broadleaf trees are mostly in the plains of Kirmanshah.

Broadleaf Herbaceous : This type of vegetation is found in the northern high land mixed evergreen coniferous and deciduous-trees which are useful for collecting medical properties, and lower plains of Tigris and south-western Zagros. In the lower plains of Tigris this type of vegetation is scattered widely. The plane tree, willow and especially the poplar flourish by the water which has much importance for domestic use of Iraq.

1 Cressy George B., Crossroads : Land and Life in Southwest Asia (Chicago, 1960) p. 174.

Needleleaf Evergreen : This type is scattered over Zagros and Taurus Mountain. The ever green needleleaf trees are scattered with broadleaf and dwarf shrubs. These are not economically much useful but only to serve livestock and domestic need of firewood.

Grass : Southern Kurdistan region particularly in Iraq and Islam area in Iran, have short patches of grass which is a fodder for the sheep and goats and therefore, the density of sheep and goats is high in this area. With the beginning of twentieth century, the vegetal cover has shrunk greatly because of sedantization of tribal population and consequent extension of cultivated lands over grazing and cutting of forest for the domestic use, e.g., 2882.2 sq. km. good dense forest is destroyed for the domestic purpose of Iraq.<sup>2</sup> The forest cover in Kurdistan region is still rich but large scale damage is being done by merciless exploitation of the green gold in Turkish, Iranian and Iraqi parts.<sup>3</sup> There is need of scientific and social forestry to stop the further damage to this gift of nature. Proper afforestation schemes need to be initiated.

(b) Minerals

The interior of the soil in Kurdistan seems to be no less rich in minerals than its surface in vegetation and

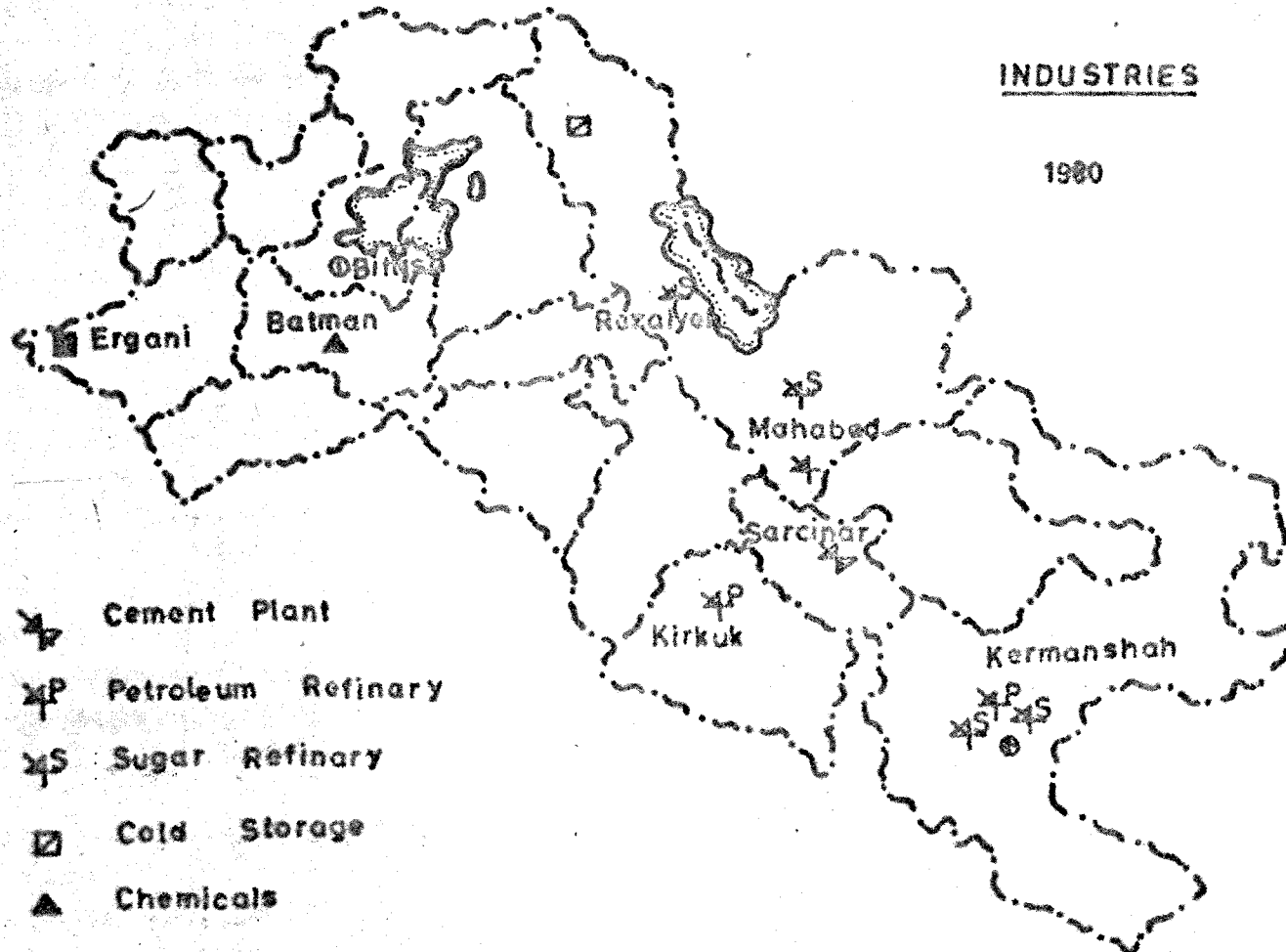
2 Iraq Statistical Abstract 1965 (Baghdad, 1965), Table No. 106, p. 174.

3 Collected from the Yearbook of Statistics, Turkey 1951 (Ankara, 1951).

# KURDISTAN

## INDUSTRIES

1980



- X Cement Plant
- X<sub>P</sub> Petroleum Refinery
- X<sub>S</sub> Sugar Refinery
- Cold Storage
- ▲ Chemicals
- Food Processing
- Tobacco
- Non Ferrous Metals

50 0 50 100 Kms.

Fig. 30

animals.<sup>4</sup> Kurdistan being in the Middle East region is not different from other oil areas and here also oil is one of the most important minerals. The Kirkuk oil fields are the chief petroleum Kurdish territory and represents a good part of Iraqi production, 95 million tons in 1978. This applies to the petroleum fields of Batman in the Siirt region of Turkey and at Shabad near Kirmanshah in Iran. A famous Kirkuk oil field in Iraqi Kurdistan which has immense reserve of oil in a single anticline between 70 and 80 kms. long and open connection within the reservoir rock allows free flow of crude oil which in fact is pushed out under its own pressure. Kirkuk oil field first developed in 1927 and now it is capable of producing 240,000 barrels daily with a very conservative estimate of 5000 million barrels reserve which is about 8% of all the oil reserves of the capitalists' world. The oil distribution is uneven in terms of political divisions of Kurdistan, therefore, but because of balkanisation of Kurdish territory, the benefits of rich oil wealth is not felt evenly. No integrated regional development could take place here.

There are some other minerals found in Kurdistan also. Quite large deposits of coal have been discovered in the region of Mardin, Kigi, Komah and Harput, where it has been economically exploited but not at Zakhe in Iraqi Kurdistan. Near Sulaymani, limestone is extracted and at Cinar, a cement factory has been producing 350 metric tons of cement a day. Deposits of rock salt can be exploited at Sindjar, Shaykhan

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4 The Encyclopaedia of Islam, new edition, vol. V, Leiden, 1981), p. 444.



and Tuz-Khurmatu. Sulphur is found at Amadiyya and in a polish collaboration, it plans to extract 250,000 metric tons of it a year at Mishrak in the north of Iraqi Kurdistan and approximately Iran is not lacking in Kurdistan, and is mined 1600,000 tonnes of sulphur at Maden in Iranian Kurdistan. Easily exploitable desposits of iron ore are found in the region of Rawanduz and Sulaymani and Copper is extracted to the tune of 32,000 tons at Ergani, Diyarbekir and Palu and Akra deposits are recently discovered.

Chromium is found in the region of Barzan and of Diyarbekir; it has a world record of large scale chromium found at a single place.<sup>5</sup> There is lead at Keban, Elazing and Maku, gold at Yeryu and to the south of Kermanshah, and also silver at Kemah. At Kirkuk the reserves of salts allow the manufacture of caustic soda and chloride. Physiographic complexities associated with political divisions of this unified ethnic area has not allowed a proper impact of the mineral wealth on the economy. Industrial development based on minerals is yet to be initiated in the region.

(c) Land Use

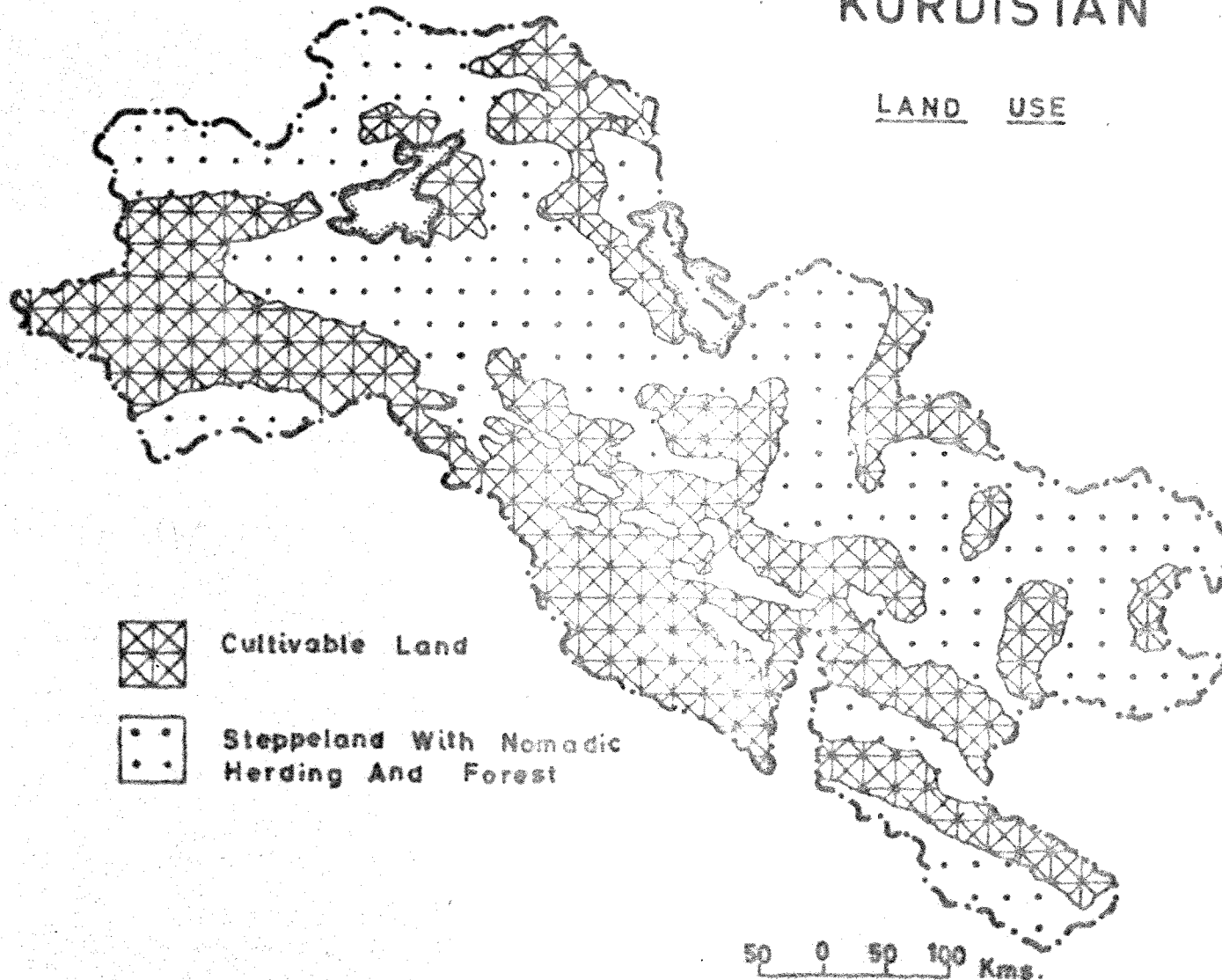
Man maintains himself on his skill in converting soil, water and sun shine into food. Many socio-economic problems have grown out of man-land relations. Land utilization in

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5. The Chromium deposits mined at Maden, half-way between Diyarbekir and Elazing, are amongst the world's largest. Its output of 832,000 metric tonnes made Turkey the world's second largest producer of this mineral (Chaliland G., People Without a Country: The Kurds and Kurdistan (London, 1980) p. 53.

# KURDISTAN

LAND USE



Cultivable Land



Steppeland With Nomadic  
Herding And Forest

50 0 50 100 Kms.

Fig. 31

Kurdistan has much importance as Kurds' livelihood mainly depends on agriculture and stock-rearing. Commercialization of agriculture after first quarter of 20th Century, hence reduction of much pasture land and restriction on migration of shepherds consequent of political divisions makes them more conscious about their land.

A provincial-wise statistics is not available on land-use of Kurdistan, but from different sources of Iran, Iraq, Turkey and UNO materials, the general land use in Kurdistan can be assessed (See Figure No. 31).<sup>6</sup> Out of 284413 sq. kms. of Kurdistan's land, 40 per cent land (113764 sq. kms.) is cultivable, ~~34~~ per cent (91012 sq.km.) land covered by forest and 28 per cent (79635.5 sq.km.) land is pasture and mountainous. Out of cultivable land 113764 sq. kms., 60 per cent land has been brought under cultivation (tilled) and 40 per cent is fallow land. Irrigated land is 60% out of the total cultivated land and 40% tilled without irrigation.

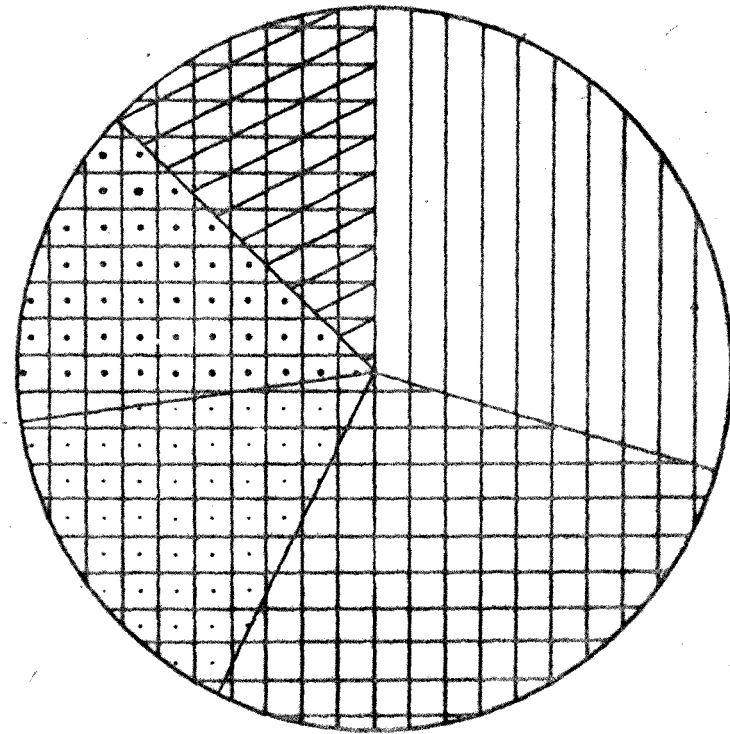
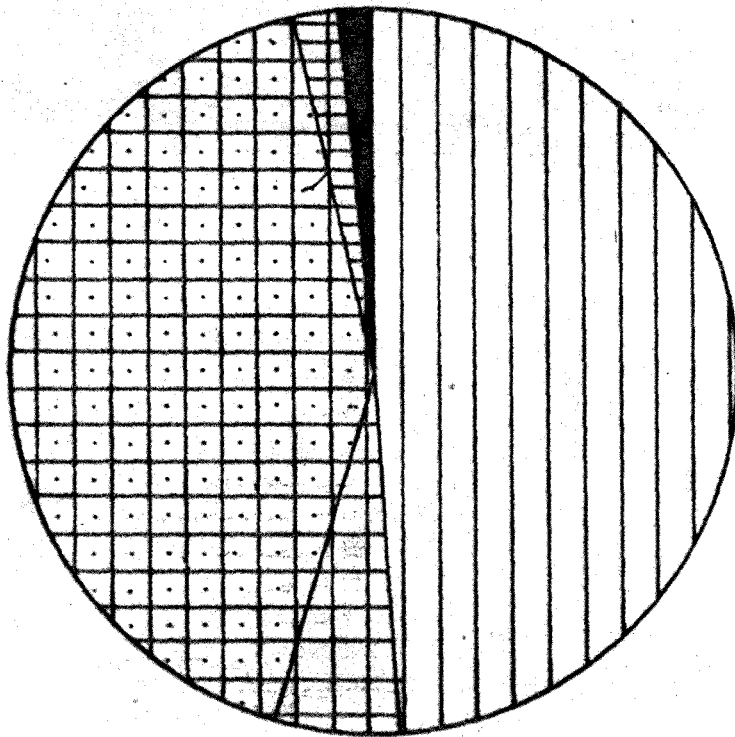
Kurdish society is still mainly agrarian. As noted earlier 70 per cent population is engaged in agriculture sector (farming and stock rearing) and only 7 to 10 per cent of the active population in industrial sector. The rest of the urban population is engaged in trade, services and craft work. The total income of the region mainly comes from agriculture and stock rearing - 64% income comes from the agriculture and stock rearing. Out of this, 30% income comes from farming and 34% comes from stock rearing.<sup>6</sup> For the last


6 Darkal B., A Geography of Turkey (Moscow, 1959), p. 102 in Ghosseinlou A.R., Kurdistan and Kurds (Prague, 1965), p. 85.

# KURDISTAN

USE OF CULTIVABLE AREA 1974

LAND USE



-  Tilled Land
-  Current Fallow
-  Fallow Land
-  Dry Fruitful
-  Dry Non Fruitful






-  Forest
-  Pasture
-  Cultivable Fallow
-  Irrigated (Cultivated)
-  Non Irrigated (Cultivated)

Fig. 32

few years the commercialization of agriculture is taking place and resulting into semi-centralization in large scale, particularly in Iranian part. A ban on shifting agriculture and migration of tribes resulted into a land under cultivation increased by 55% from 1950 to 1965 in Turkish Kurdistan<sup>7</sup>, and grazing land reduced from 48.5% to 36.2%, resulting into a gross loss of 25.3% in the grazing land. However, the forest remains more or less constant.

Cultivated Area : Kurdistan is in different nation states, with a varied economic development situation but the agriculture and the cultivated area do not show much difference. Out of total cultivable land 49 per cent land is under cultivation, whereas the current fallow is 5.39 per cent and 42.96 per cent is fallow land other than the current fallow. Only 3.3 per cent land is under dry land farming mainly in West Azerbaijan, Kirmanshah, Al-Tameem, Arbil, D'hek provinces (See Figure No. 32) and south western part of Kurdistan, but the productivity level is rather less as much of such land is rather poor in fertility.

Irrigation in Kurdistan is of two types, one is through barrage and dam, and the rest by wells. The first type of irrigation is mainly in Iranian part and limited parts in Turkish. The well irrigation is predominant in Iraqi provinces of Kurdistan. Out of total cultivated area, near about 60% land is irrigated in Iranian Kurdistan. In Iraqi Kurdistan five dams on rivers have been constructed but their utilization in Kurdistan is less because of high altitude.

7. Dawelney, J-C, Turkey (London, 1971), p. 101.

Crops : Feed crops still remain the most important in terms of total area coverage. However, agriculture is the livelihood of at least 75% of the inhabitants of the Kurdistan; it provides not more than 30% of the gross national product in the region. Wheat is the chief crop in most of the Kurdistan area except wheat is the predominant crop in the Iraqi and Iraqi Kurdistan, north western parts, primarily because of severe climate. Millet is a very tough crop to resist the extreme type of climate. It is cultivated in the north-western high lands of Kurdistan. There are other important crops like barley, green gram, maize, rice and tobacco, etc. (See Figure No. 33).

Wheat is the chief crop and is grown over most of Kurdistan. The area of greatest production are : (1) South and south-western Kurdistan i.e. Al-Tameem, Arbil, Al-Sulemaniya and Dhek. The production of this area is 282 thousand tons. Wheat in this area is a winter crop and mostly is grown in the wetter areas. An introduction of new species from the Punjab and the New World (Mexico especially) has resulted in better yields. (2) North-east and areas of central Zagros, particularly district of Lake Urmiah, Hamadan and Kermanshah. The total yield of wheat in this area has been 523,000 tons annually. An average yield in this region is 30 quintal per hectare. (3) The areas of north-west Kurdistan where wheat is subordinate crop, are confined to Agri, Mus, Mardin, Diyarbakir and Van Provinces.

Barley is the second most important crop in Iraqi and Iranian part of Kurdistan due to its being more tolerant than

# KURDISTAN

AREA UNDER CROPS

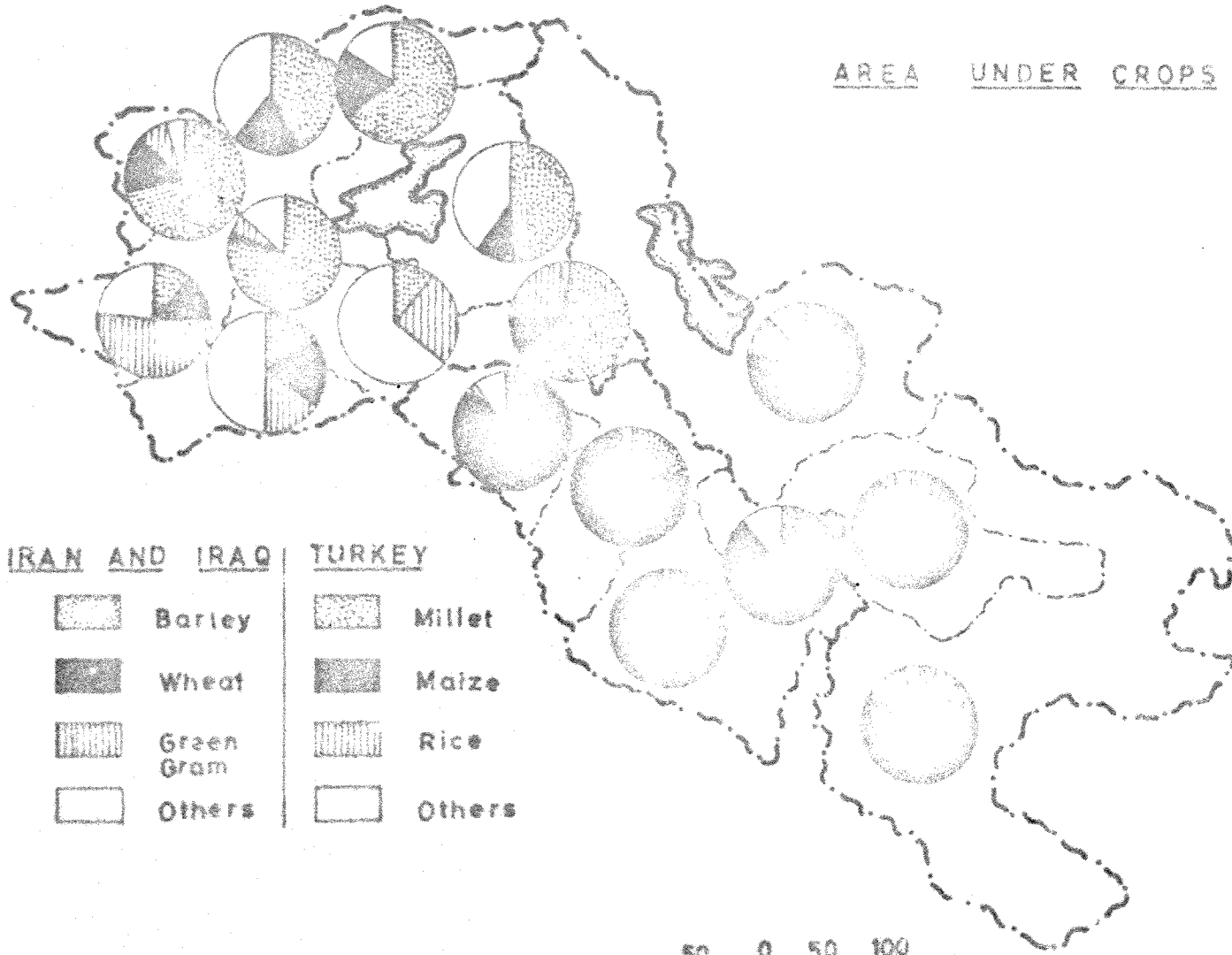


Fig. 33

rice to aridity and soil salinity, less affected by 'sunna' itself and also growing in shortest time. But unlike wheat, the area under cultivation has declined by about 50% during the last 10 years. The area under barley in the above mentioned region was 353766 hectares in 1974 which gave 169100 tons of production. Provinces of Agri, Hakkari and Al-Sulemaniya have good number of area under barley cultivation.

Green gram is an important crop in West Azerbaijan and Kermanshah provinces, where 13.26 and 12.93 per cent area is under cultivation. In Northwest Kurdistan millets remain a dominant crop. Area under millets is more than 60% in the provinces of Agri, Bittis, Bingel and Hakkari. Area under rice cultivation comparatively more in the Diyarbekir, Siirt and Mardin provinces. Other important crops are maize, chick pears, and paddy. In the provinces of D'hek, Al-Sulemaniya and Kermanshah provinces, area under chick pears is 6.42%, 4.75% and 1.39% respectively. Paddy cultivation is 1.62% in D'hek and 1.29% Al-Sulemaniyah provinces.

Under commercial crops, Sugar beet, tobacco, cotton, sunflower and fruit trees are the important commercial crops in different parts of Kurdistan. Sugar beet is cultivated in the plains of Lake Urmiah and plains of Kurdistan so that the sugar industries are established in two areas. Tobacco crop has been taken in West Azerbaijan, Bitlis, Hakkari and Siirt provinces. Sunflower has been taken as a soil seed crop mostly in West Azerbaijan (2.87%), Kurdistan (1.45%) and Al-Sulemaniyah (2.61%). Apples are produced in Agri and Van provinces.



Although agriculture has been the mainstay of the people here but due to geographic, compulsion and institutional limitations, it has never come up a systematic line, thus it has never resulted into a rich sector, bringing in affluence to the people. It has certain basic problems, which need a serious planning and balanced strategy to systematic shifting agriculture and stabilise the yields from irrigated done by way of strengthening infrastructure and technological base. Improved seeds, aimed fertilizers, pesticides, proper marketing and proper mix of livestock and cultivation usher in a balanced and much required agricultural economy.

The large extent of mountain and semi-arid steps, too cold or too dry in one part for agriculture has led to the development of stock-keeping on a considerable scale. In many areas, considerable seasonal movement from winter to summer pasture take place. A stock keeping as an important supplement to cultivation. In Kurdistan the livestock contribute to a sizeable proportion in the agricultural set up.

Kurdistan is a land of sheep, goats, cows and buffaloes supplying milk, butter, cheese and meat, hides and skin etc. which help in developing leather and wool industries alongwith manufacturing of clothes and shoes, etc. In 1976, Iraqi Kurdistan was having 44,47,824 sheep, 27,37,126 goats and 10,44,961 poultry which gives good share in national income<sup>8</sup>, whereas in Iraqi Kurdistan 15,00,000 sheep, 12,00,000 goats and

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8. Collected from Annual Abstract of Statistics, 1976 (Central Statistical Organization, Republic of Iraq, Ministry of Planning), p. 108.

# LIVE STOCK

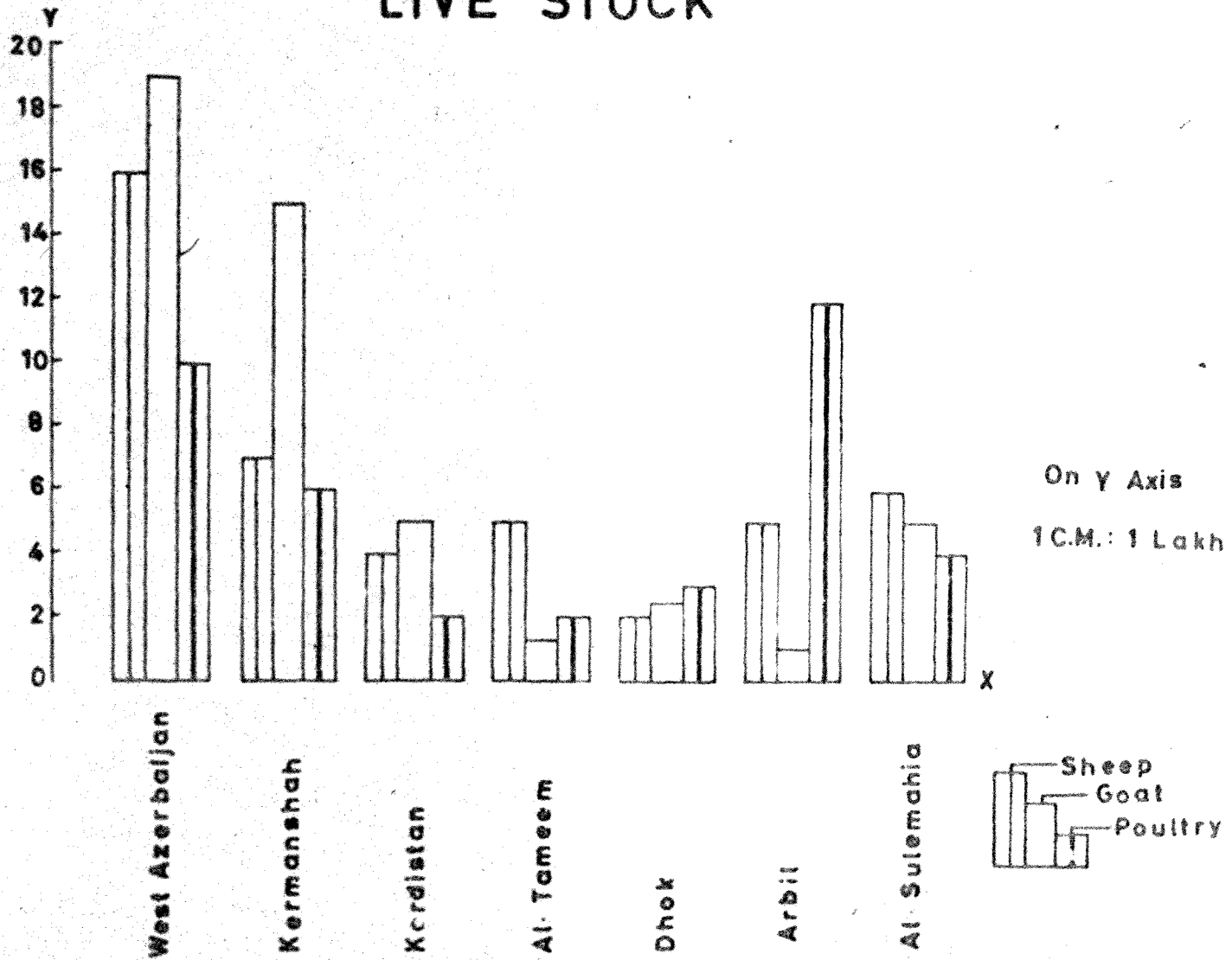


Fig. 34

200,000 poultry were there in 1976.<sup>9</sup> In 1976 in the Kurdish region of Turkey there were 7662,332 sheep, 41,76,016 goats, one quarter of all Turkish stock-breeding, and 22,40,825 cows which is one-sixth. In Iraqi Kurdistan 226858 (cows are one-third) and 4287 buffaloes. If you find out density of sheep and goats in Kurdistan, it is 3500 per sq. km. in Iran and 2200 to 3300 in Iraq. In case of goats they are 1500 to 3900 per sq. km. There are different breeds of sheep with fat tails and goats with long hair, and ordinary black goat is most common in Turkish Kurdistan. The Horses, Mules and donkeys are very much useful for the purpose of carrying goods. For example, Iraqi Kurdistan has 22,287 horses (one-seventh), 52,336 mules, almost the whole production, 13,804 donkeys (one-third of country's production).

Kurdish life rotates on live-stock wealth and a common Kurd moves seasonally with his herds in search of pasture. Kurdish ethos is the sum total of shifting agriculture and moving herds. Scientific management is still awaited. Live-stock products still await commercialisation and therefore proper marketing and cooperatives are the needs of the hour.

#### INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Mineral deposits and commercial agricultural products are the main determining factors for the establishment of industries in Kurdistan. Although in 1930s the western modern ideas for economic development adopted by Mohammed Raza Shah in Iran and the Kamalist governments in Turkey but there was

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9. National Census of Ministry of Agriculture and Natural resources 1976 p. 288.

# KURDISTAN

## MAJOR MINERALS

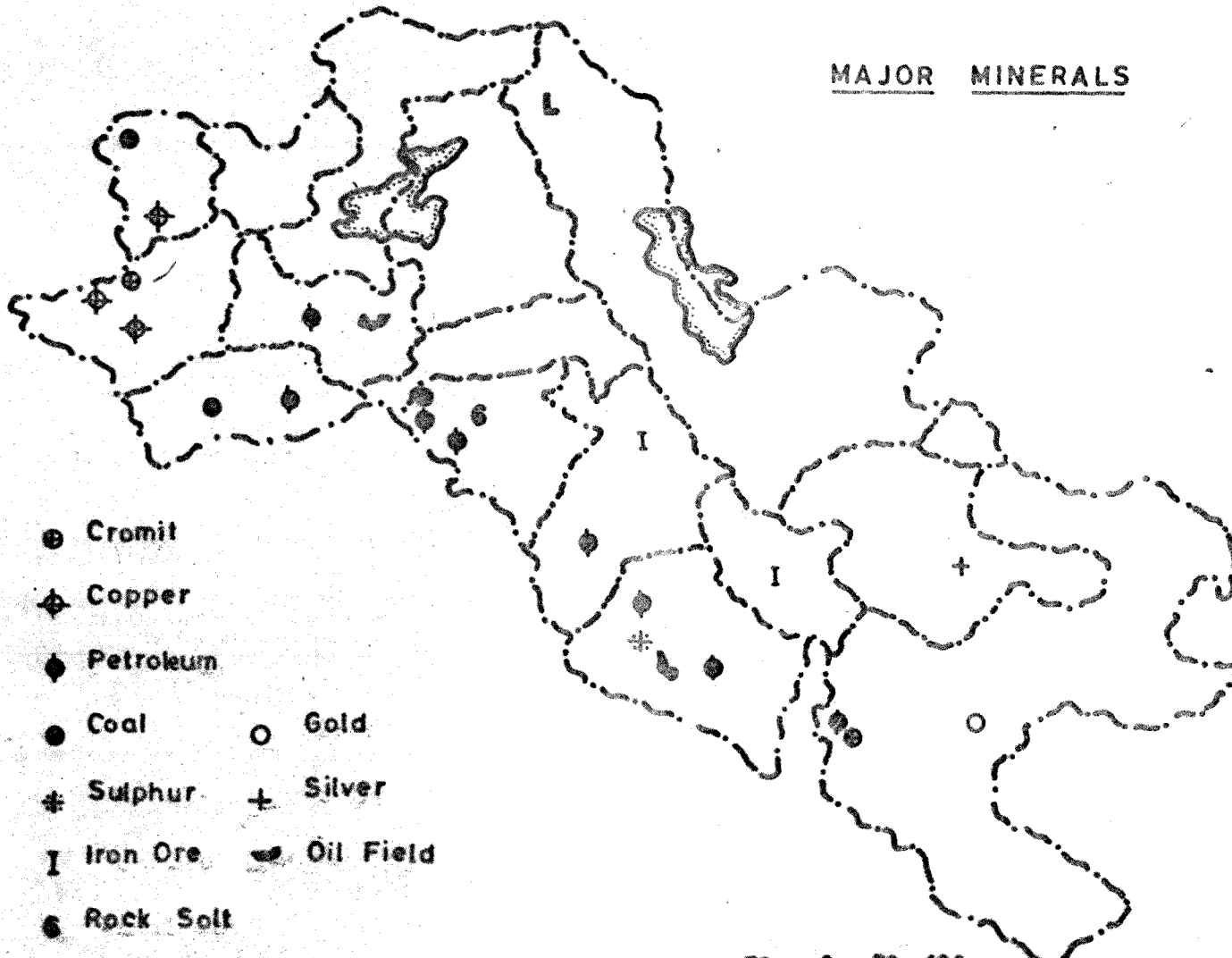


Fig. 35

no really modern industry of any kind except some oil companies' installation. Problem areas like Kurdistan could hardly had the feel of such a modernization. In 1946, out of 43,263 companies' factories and workshops registered under Turkish labour legislation only 2427 were in Kurdistan, representing 5.6% of the total.<sup>10</sup> Usually these establishments were simple craft workshops producing soap, oil, carpets, etc.

Over past 10 years, major efforts to some extent have been made by the government to foster industrial growth. Large package deals involving participation of countries such as USA, USSR, France, Great Britain, Japan, Italy and West Germany in joint development schemes have been a feature. It has long been the basic principles to spread industrial activities as reasonably widely possible through the populated parts of the country and at the same time to place particular industries close to sources of raw materials, where labour is available and communication is good. This meant that whilst most provincial capitals and towns on major routes obtained some new industrial activities, However, this does not bring any marked change in the industrial personality of Kurdistan. One could visualise this position in the context of physiographic complex landscape, poor transport linkages, Kurdish ethos and political factors responsible for a poor industrial start and development. There was not a single kilometre railway route in Irani Kurdistan except strategic railway connecting Turkey and Iran, from Zaibris to Van.

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10. Chaliand G., People Without a Country: Kurds and Kurdistan (London, 1980), p. 52.

The main industries in Irani Kurdistan are based on agriculture products such as sugar industries. The state-owned sugar industry established at Razaiyah in 1950 and 700 tons daily capacity of raw material.<sup>11</sup> Another at Naqudeh and one more at Mahabad established in Fourth National Development Plan of Iran.<sup>12</sup> In the Kermanshah province three sugar refineries - two at Bistun (near Kermanshah) and one at Hekmatan (near Hamadan) have been established with a 1000 tons daily capacity of raw material, established in 1963 and 1964 respectively.<sup>13</sup> There is no sugar factory developed in Turkish or Iraqi Kurdistan area. Kermanshah is an important centre for a variety of food processing industry. Tobacco processing industry is at Bitlis, primarily because of 10 per cent cultivated area of the province is under tobacco crop<sup>14</sup> and it also gets raw material from nearby provinces mainly from Mus.

One major petroleum refinery was established at Kirkuk and one at Batman in the Siirt province. The Kirkuk oil refinery has the Kirkuk oil field for its raw material and Batman refinery has Garzan and Ramen Dag oil fields. Kermanshah also has one oil refinery which collects oil from nearby area of Qasr Shrin.

11 Iran Almanac, 1971, (Tehran), p. 303.

12 Taylor, A., (ed), The Middle East (Nevilton Abbot, 1972) p. 303.

13. Iran Almanac, n. 10.

14. Statistical Year Book of Turkey 1951 (Ankara, 1951).

# KURDISTAN

## TRANSPORT

1980

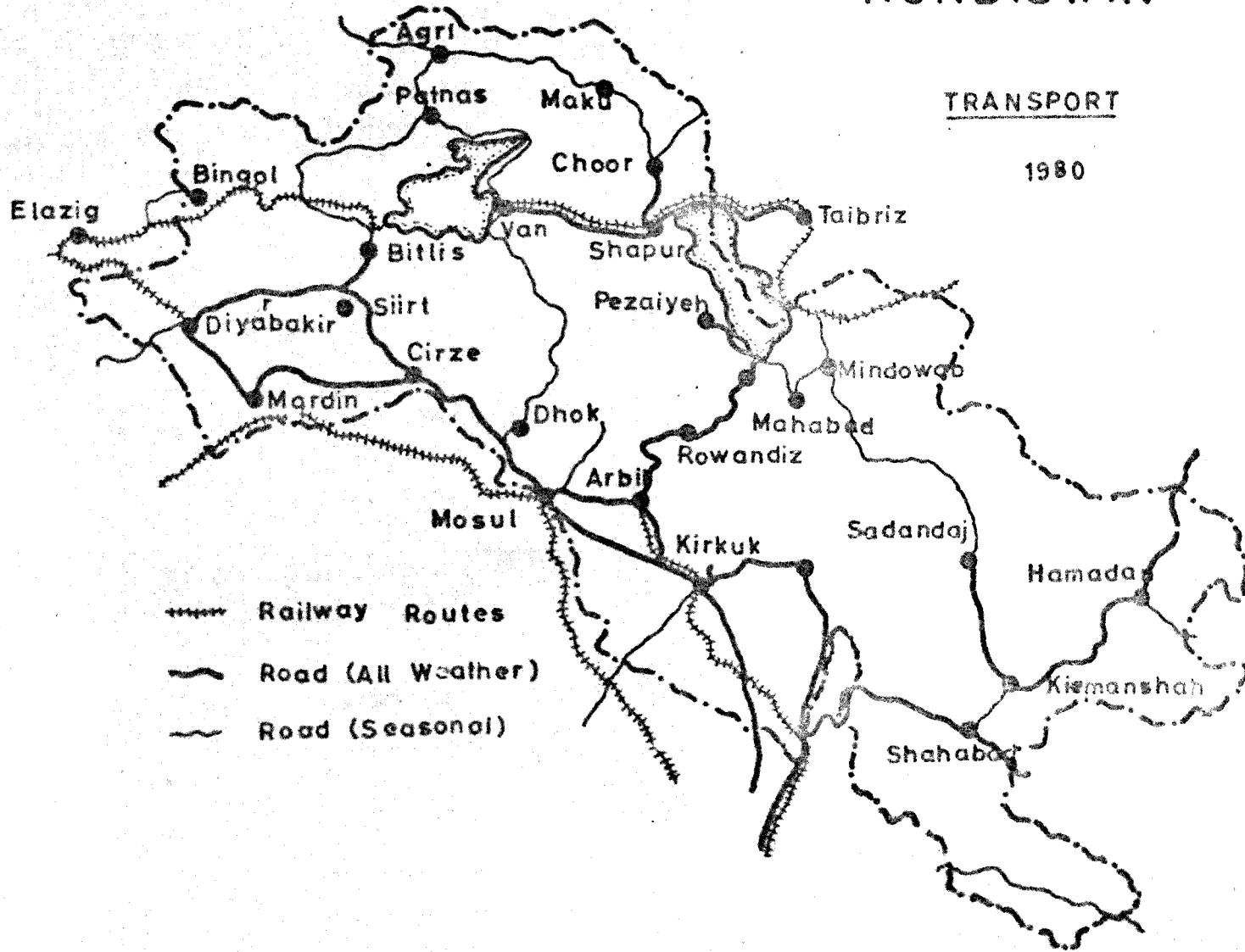


Fig. 36

A cement plant at Sar Cinar in Al-Sulemaniya province was established in 1958.<sup>15</sup> It gets raw material (lime stone) for Sulaymani, the plant has been producing 350 metric tonnes of cement a day.<sup>16</sup> Chemical industry is established at Batman and nonferrous metal plant near Diyarbakir, where chrome and coal are found.

There are some small industries like carpet industries established at Senna (Sanandaj) and Hamadan. The heavy carpets in wool are associated with these areas. Young children having small fingers, are often employed and the finished products have a world-wide sale, chiefly in the U.S.A., Canada, Germany and France.

#### Communications

Mountain ranges, snowfall areas and highly dissected topography have proved severe obstacles to movement which in turn has become the basic factor in its development. Kurdistan has a very weak communication network due to less attention paid to this area for its development by the authorities. Whatever communication routes are there, they do not serve the purpose of linking the areas but they are merely to draw the minerals and raw materials. They do not support or serve the needs of the people and their economy and settlement but are meant to serve an exploitation for the betterment of the other areas. Most of the area of Kurdistan is very far from railway routes.

15. The Encyclopaedia of Islam, new edn., Vol. V (Leiden, 1981), p. 444.

16. Ibid.



A railway line was introduced in Kurdistan before 1914 (route from Mediterranean to Mosul) only to extract the oil from Mosul. In Turkish Kurdistan most of the railways was built after 1940. From Elazig to Sire connected via Diyarbakir and Siirt has immense importance for carrying minerals and petroleum. Another rail route constructed from Elazig to Tatoon after 1960 and a strategic railway route connected Van and Taibriz. In Iraqi Kurdistan a metre gauge railway was built from Baghdad to April via Kirkuk in 1949 with a length of 286 Kms.<sup>18</sup> Most of the rail lines are peripheral in location and thus leaves the heart of Kurdistan untouched and unserved.

Roads in Kurdistan are only linkages through remote areas, though some of the roads are closed down in the winter and rainy days. In the last 15 years considerable changes have taken place in Iraqi Kurdistan in connecting important centres by all-weather roads. In Iraq national road No. 2 from Baghdad to Zakhe via Kirkuk, Arbil and Mosul has been constructed and is used in all weathers.<sup>19</sup> Another road No. 6 from Baghdad to Sulamaniyah, Kirkuk and Sulemaniya also is connected by all weather road.

A strategic road goes from Arbil to Mahabad in Iran through Rawanduz pass and another Zaku to Siirt and further goes to

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17. Dawdsey J.C., Turkey (London, 1971), p. 57.
  18. Collected from Annual Abstract of Statistics (1976) (Republic of Iraq, Ministry of Planning, Baghdad, 1976), p. 449.
  19. Iraq Tourist Map, compiled and drawn by Deri A.K. issued by the Summer Resorts and Tourism Administration (Scale: 1:15,00,000).

Diyarbakir has much importance. The roads in North western Kurdistan are all weather roads, although maintenance is very high due to snowfall, particularly Elazing to Mardin via Diyarbakir and Diyarbakir to Bitlis via Siirt which is mainly for the use of carrying industrial goods and minerals from Bitlis and Batman. In Iran, the road along with railway route from Taibiz to Van has strategic importance. Same route goes upto Urmiah. In south West Azerbaijan and Kurdistan province do not have all weather road except Sandandaj to Kermanshah in the south-eastern area. Kermanshah connected to Shahbad and Hamadan for mineral purpose. In remote and mountainous area donkeys and horses have been very much in use.

#### Problems and Possibilities :

Kurdistan has immense problems of linkages, which probably are the main barrier in its development. The climate is only unsuitable for agriculture and man, but also for carrying the necessary goods. A vast area of Iranian Kurdistan and Hakkari mountainous areas are far from railway routes and in these areas roads are also not workable in all weathers. Due to problems of linkages, industries are not much developed. Moreover Kurdistan became just a colony of the developed centres of other parts of the region.

Because of harsh weather it is not possible to take crops throughout the year. If a crop is cultivated a little bit late it suffers from insects, pests and dryness. Because of extreme type of climate, the high-yielding variety of wheat cultivation scheme has failed in Turkish Kurdistan. Soil erosion is a serious threat and causes a reduction in cultivated

area which ultimately affects the yield and production cost. Besides these geographic issues and problems, the severe handicaps are posed because of its political situation which has never allowed any effort for its socio-economic development.

It has plenty of resource base for its development. The north western area of Kurdistan has very favourable conditions for development of the basic industries. At Diyarbakir area chrome is found in abundance as well as copper in the north and fuel from Batman gas and oil field, water from Tigris are sufficient to initiate a balanced industrial development. The same condition is available at Kermanshah where petroleum, sugar and food processing industries are developing.

Hydroelectric projects and water storages can be built on several rivers. A great hydroelectric project and water storage is built at Dukan in Iraq, which has given a great boost to the economy of that area. A railway line can be built in Iranian Kurdistan through Kerdistan province which may push up craft industries and industries based on livestock goods and agricultural products. A policy of Iraqi government to connect important centres has helped in developing that area in the last 15 years. Similar efforts may generate development for the betterment of the region.

Tourism needs to be encouraged but because of difficult political situation the chances are not fair constant and long drawn political turmoil and war like situation in major parts of Kurdistan has severely affected the socio-economic

development of the area. A serious effort is needed to stream line such a situation otherwise no development plan will succeed and it would remain a backwater beyond any signs of development.

CHAPTER VI

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FORCES  
AND QUESTION OF AUTONOMY

CHAPTER VI

Regional and International Forces  
and Question of Autonomy

The nation states of the Middle East were mostly set up by British and French imperialist powers to serve their own ends and in accordance with their own immediate needs. And precisely on this account, if Anglo-French imperialism had required an independent Kurdistan they would have set one up.<sup>1</sup>

Kurds have an unique character and the small groups of Kurdish could maintain some sort of autonomy throughout the history, in both Ottoman and Persian Kingdom for the first quarter of the 20th century. At that time Kurds were also aware of their independence but they were not united. There is no one opinion on the nature of demand of autonomy of Kurdistan among the Kurds themselves, atleast not before the question arose at the international level in 1920.<sup>2</sup> After the defeat of Ottomans, the question of independence of Kurdistan gave a rise to stormy debates among Kurds association. That resulted into split between the medical, young militants, who suggested the idea of a totally independent Kurdistan, and the notables like Sheikh Abdul Qadir, President of both the association and the Ottoman State Council.

1. Chaliand G. People without a Country. Kurds and Kurdistan (London, 1980), pp. 39-40.

2. Ibid. 46.

defended the idea of autonomy within an Ottoman framework.<sup>3</sup> But later on, the Turkish ruler Mustapha Kamal crushed the Kurdish movement, and this affected which part was isolated from the rest of Kurdistan, in March, 1921.

Just after the First world war, the Treaty at Sevres took place on 10 August, 1920 for a political resettlement of the Asia Minor.<sup>4</sup> Kurds got recognition in that Treaty but soon after the hopes were again short lived with an enactment of a new treaty in 1923, the Treaty of Lausanne. As a result of the new treaty Kurdistan was divided between Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria and the U.S.S.R. In Turkey and Iran, where the majority of the Kurds lived<sup>5</sup>, severe measures were adopted by the central governments to suppress Kurdish nationalism. The problem of oppressed minorities, ethnic, or linguistic or religious minorities are demanding the right to be governed by themselves. They insisted on reminding that they form a majority in their own territories or when they are scattered over a wider area demand the right to preserve their own identity<sup>6</sup> and in principle

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3. In this quest for Kurdish interlocutors, Sir Perry later British High Commissioner in Iraq, went to Marseille in July, 1918 to meet General Sherit Pasha, the future head of the Kurdish delegation at the Peace Conference, in order to discuss the creation of an autonomous or independent Kurdistan in Chalind G. n.1p.41.
4. East W.Gordon, Spare O.H.K., (ed). The changing map of Asia: A Political Geography (Bungay, 1971), Fifth edn., p.58.
5. Edmonds C.J., "Kurdish Nationalism", Journal of Contemporary History, Vol.6, No. 1(1971).
7. Ideas expressed in 'Los Kurds et i.e. peoples minorities. i.e. Monde, 17 March 1976, in Chalind G. People without a Country.
8. As in the United Nations Charter, Articles 1 and 55, the right to self determination is recognised by the U.N. General Assembly's Resolution 2625/XXV, 24 October, 1970.

the self-determination right is guaranteed by international law. The question of Kurds autonomy came up because in their own state they were suffering as they were denied of even cultural rights. Kurds are in minorities in Iraq, Iran and Turkey. The majority group's nationalism and impulse to centralise and power resulted more or less every where in several forms of oppression of minority groups and the oppression of kurds community has been going on in Turkey, Iran and also in Iraq.

The Kurds are culturally oppressed and deprived of their rights to use own language in schools, in publication and in dealings with the administration. In Turkey and Iran, the language of kurds is almost banned. There is not a single school where teaching is carried out in Kurdish language e.g. Kurdish has been banned since 1925 in Turkey.<sup>9</sup> The publication of books and magazines in Kurdish is still illegal. In Iran, after the collapse of independent Mahabad Kingdom in 1945-46, Kurdish has been banned for the last 37 years.<sup>10</sup> In the return the Kurds of Iran have drawn upon the publications of the Kurds of Iraq where the Kurdish language and literature have progressed enormously since the 14th of July Revolution of 1958. Moreover, in Turkey, the word Kurd has been removed from all official records and they designated them as a 'Mountain Turks'.

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9. 'Kurdish Nationalism', Edmond C.J., Journal of contemporary History, Vol. 6, NO. 1 (Jan. 1971), p. 88.
10. Since 1970 a few books and pamphlets on the most burning political issues of the day have been clandestinely published in Kurdish. However, the distribution of the Kurdish texts immediately runs foul at the Iranian regime's repressive policies. Savak (the secret police) has tortured and imprisoned several people merely for being in possession of Kurdish publication. Ghassemtan A.R., Kurdistan and the Kurds, (Prague, 1965). p. 41.



Along with the cultural oppression, the economic oppression has accompanied. The respective governments of Kurds in Iran, Iraq and Turkey have a systematic bias against the interests of the Kurds. The development of Kurdistan area is far behind than the country's development.<sup>11</sup> The Kurdish agriculture have hardly changed since the Middle Ages. For example, in Turkish Kurdistan uses 30% of Turkey's carts are in use as opposed to only 3% at the country's agricultural machinery.<sup>12</sup> In Iran, the massive industrialisation which has taken place in many parts has hardly touched Kurdistan and while in Iraq, the massive oil revenue from Kirkuk has not been spent on Kurdistan's area development.

The physical and emotional oppression has been carried out on large scale in all three countries, In the post-independent period through the massive transfer of population by either implanting majority group in Kurdish area or deporting Kurdish population outside the Kurdish territory. For example a large military population deported in Turkish Kurdistan on the pretext of military rule.<sup>13</sup> In Iraqi Kurdistan a systematic population transfer carried out to eliminate Kirkuk oil field from the Kurdish autonomy area. A massive population

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11. Borthwick B.M. Comparative Politics of the Middle East : An introduction (New Delhi, Prentice-hall of India Pvt. Ltd.) P. 234
  12. Ghaliand G., n. 1, p. 51
  13. "Kurds And Their question", Garrod O. Journal of Royal Central Asian Society (Jan, 1946), vol.XXXIII p. 32.

of kurds either deported to southern desert or in Suhemaniya province alongwith deposition of Arabic population in Kirkuk and Mosul area. The genocide of the kurds, the attempt to eliminate the minority community as a whole, is quite in vogue. There is no rational representation of Kurdish community in the government bodies and government services as well as in administration ....  
 ..... etc.<sup>14</sup>

The diversity of the problem implies that the solutions must also be wide ranging i.e. from independence or autonomy to simple preservation of the minority's identity. Kurds have been fighting back the central governments for a long time. In Turkey, the military rule has imposed strict vigilance on Kurdish area till recently,<sup>15</sup> There is no question of giving autonomy or freedom to Kurds. Even the area of Kurdistan is prohibited for tourists till recently.<sup>16</sup> In Iran a massive repression was carried out in the shah's regime when this authority began to crumble in 1978 the kurds were among the first to engage in armed struggle against the central power.<sup>17</sup> In the past whenever Iran experienced weak government for whatever reasons, the Kurds predictably stood up in arms to gain. Khomeini called in army to crush the rebellion, but the army was not yet in a condition to

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 14. International Herald Tribune (Paris) 18th June, 1980.  
 15. Edmond C.J., n. 9 p. 91.  
 16. Ibid.  
 17. Sim (Richard), "Kurdistan : The search for Recognition", conflict Studies, No. 124 (November, 1980), p. 5.

fight.<sup>18</sup> Other Iranian left organisations assisted the insurgents. Khomeini realised the danger from the armed leftists. Therefore he despatched a man with close left wing connections, Ayatollah Mohumoud Taleghani to Sanandaj as the head of a government delegation.

#### Case of Turkey:

The Treaty of Lausanne 24th July, 1923 gave international recognition to the Turkish State and ended up into four parts and it served as a humiliation to the Turkish people and deeply unjust to the Kurdish people. Lausanne in contrast, was undeniably a victory for the Turks and the Kurds entered a new phase of servitude. Article 8 of the above mentioned treaty had already given over the Kurdish territories of Diarhireh and Kurel Dugh (South Alexandrette) to the French mandated territory of Syria. After a Treaty of Lausanne, on 3 March, 1924, the caliphate was abolished, a decree banned all Kurdish schools, associations, publications, religious fraternities and madresse and the break among Kamalism and the Kurds became absolute. From 1925 to 1939, the Turkish military forces in Kurdistan provoked constant revolts and present uprisings. In 1925 there was the major revolt led by Sheikh Said.

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18. On 18 March 1979, after a series of clashes, Pesh Mergas attempted to take the city, the capital of Kurdistan. Other Iranian leftist organisations, notably the Fedayeen actively assisted the insurgents. Some 200 died in the fighting, which confessed to new Government that it was in danger not only of losing its grip on the country but also of creating against itself a large armed left wing movement a possibility fought with danger, granted the long frontier with Afghanistan and the U.S.S.R., *ibid.*

The revolt of 1925's was principally religious in character.<sup>19</sup> The Kurdish movement in Turkey thenceforth became more nationalistic linking up with kurds elsewhere. One of the more notable nationalist political groups was one called the "Association of the friends of the kurds", which had branches in Baghdad, Hatedp and Dimensions. 1925's insurrection had been a veritable tidal wave. It enjoyed mass popular support as Turkish observers noted at that time. The repression which follos was, therefore, all the more terrible and bloody. On 4 September, 1925, Sheikh Said and 52 of his followers were hung in Diyarbekir.<sup>20</sup> Thousands of anonymous peasants were massacred to make sure the lesson stayed learnt. Hundreds of villagers were burnt to the ground. In the Autumn four hundred Kurdish patriots were hung in Khapur, a hundred in Hinis etc.<sup>21</sup>

Mount Ararcot Revolt : Following the defeat of the 1925 insurrection, the chieftains such as Yade of Palu or Aliya Unis of Scessoum took on the task of defending the civilian population against the repression carried out by the Kamalist troops. Turkish Government decided to deport Kurdish population. During the period from 1925 to 1928 almost a million people were deported.<sup>22</sup> Ten thousands died on the way, for

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19. Sim (Richard), n. 7. p.17.  
 20. Hoyd W., Foundation of Turkish Nationalism, (London 1950) p. 47.  
 21. Ibid.p. 49.  
 22. Ghassemion A.R., n.10 : p. 36.

lack of food and supplies and huge distances they were forced to cross in the middle of the harsh winter. Because of Kurdish arm struggle they got too much suppressed by the Central authority. And the deportation of Kurdish population disturbed the Kurds' physical unity and that resulted in diminishing Kurdish arm . strength and force.

The next rebellion was not long delayed. Turkish efforts to establish roads and gendarmerie posts in Kurdish districts soon run into opposition. Most notably in 1937 a serious but short-lined revolt broke out in the Dersim district. Kurdish nationalism sever fully recovered from the horrendus repression which followed in which tons of thousands of Kurds were killed. Collective suicides occurred and there were mass deportations. A stage of siege first introduced in 1936 lasted until 1950 while, the area remained closed to foreigners until as late as 1965.<sup>23</sup> It was the time of that insurrection that the very use of Kurdish language was banned and the absurd enphenism "Mountain Turks" introduced.

Following the second world war Turkey suffered by famine, and economic difficulties.<sup>24</sup>, which forced the Government to liberalize a regime a little. In 1940 several political parties were created such as progressive parties which criticised the government very seriously. That resulted into its being banned.

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23. Ibid. p. 42.

24. Borthwick B.M., Comparative Politics of the Middle East ; An Introduction (New Delhi ; Prentice - Hall of India Private Ltd., 1980) p. 224.

In 1950 the free general elections in Turkish history took place. The people (most of Kurds) supported Democratic Party of Turkey not because for giving popular support but as a reaction against the Kamalist regime of terror. Because of defections the police and military repression clide down considerably. Kurds and Turks became voters.

In 1955 the central regime signed the anti-communist and anti-Kurdish Baghdad Pact with Iraq, Iran and Pakistan.<sup>25</sup> There was no serious arm uprising in that period. On 27th July, 1960, the military coup d'etat was the revenge taken by Kamalist military. The military coup d etat was followed by a new more liberal constitution. Some articles on Kurdistan and Kurds were devoted, which included freedom of thought and of the press. A bilingual journal of Kurdish and Turkish was published but soon after it was banned.

In 1961 to 1970, the democratic and socialist movement grew up because of the national consciousness and national liberation movements throughout the world. Universities and schools became major source producing revolutions. By 1968 there were differences emerged between Parliament-arists and Leninists. Kurdish militants organised mass meetings in Kurdish major towns, propagating against unjust operation, and demanding that the Kurdish people be allowed to exercise their democratic rights. In 1969, the Organisation of

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25. Keesing's contemporary Archives ; Weekly Diary at World Events' (London, Keesing's Publication Ltd.) Vol. No. X, 1955-56, p. 14565.

Revolutionary Cultural Centre which played important role in the Kurdish National Movement. Their members were either members of T.W.P. or very close to it. The left parties had managed to regrouped in 1979 and could published bilingual monthly 'Orgurluk Yely' (The Road to Freedom). Moreover, in March 1976 another monthly review Rizgari (Liberation) was issued. But due to its anti-Kemalist article it was banned before its second issue was brought out.<sup>26</sup>

During last twenty years considerable changes occurred in traditional structures. Feudalism has broken down, nomadism has disappeared. Tobacco grower and peasant and workers in industries came into contact with the urbanised population and cities. The unemployment problem increased in general and particularly in petty bourgeoisie class these get education in schools and universities. These petty bourgeoisie and labourers are the most dynamic and responsive sector of the Kurdish society.

For long time Kurds nationalism led by traditional chieftains. But today the movement mainly led by these urban and rural Petty bourgeoisies. Kurdish feudalism now became an intermediary for Turkish colonialism to the system. The Kurdish elites have now discovered that, although armed insurrection remains the highest stage of the conflict with the general authorities, however, it is not only the possible form of struggle. They adopted peaceful means for struggle.

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26. Times (London), 10 December, 1976.

is  
 This/possible because of development of democratic  
 movement in Turkey.

Case of Iran

After First World War the sinke movement started  
 in Iranian Kurdistan between 1920 and 1925. Chief of the  
 Shikak tribe, Ismail Agha managed to hold the entire region  
 west of lake Urmiah and gave a call for the independance  
 of all Kurdistan. In 1925 Raza Shah came to power and he was  
 called on Ismail to negotiate at Ulhau, where Ismail was  
 assassinated.

During second world war, the Central authority became  
 weak and political vacuum was created which was favourable to  
 Kurdish rebels, they formed Kurdish democratic party of Iran  
 and with the help of USSR, they formed an independant  
 Kurdistan at Mahabad on 22nd January, 1946.<sup>27</sup> But late in  
 the same year Russian troops left Iran and Kurdish Republic  
 was overthrown by the Shah's army on 16th December, 1946.  
 Kurdish leader escaped to the USSR and several Kurdish  
 soldiers were repressed and killed.

On 9th February, 1949 there was an attempt on the  
 Shah's life and the Government took advantage of this  
 situation to crush the democratic movement through out Iran.  
 In the election of 1952 a KDP candidate received between 80  
 and 90% of votes in Mahabad and surrounding area. As a

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 27. Kendall, The Kurds under the Ottoman Empire, in  
 Chaliand n.1, p.44.



result the election was declared null and void and the government appointed a religious figure as the Deputy at Mahabad.<sup>28</sup> On 23 February 1955, Iran, Iraq, Turkey and Pakistan signed the Baghdad Pact which was directed against the Kurdish movement.

Soon after an insurrection broke out in Iran in September 1961, the Iraqi Kurds supported and assisted the Iraqi rebels. Shah directly helped to weaken the Baghdad Government. Moreover he increased aid to neutralise Kurdish movement in Iran. This resulted into a famous propaganda that is Iran's Kurdish movement activities are weak and Barzani collaborated with the Iranian authority that affected Kurdish Movement. The representatives of KDP continued to give support, when in March, 1975 he won a favourable settlement of the Shatt-al-Arab border dispute with Iraq. It was harsh and thousands of Kurds fled to Iran. When Shah's authority began to crumble in 1978 the Iraqi Kurds were among the first to engage in armed struggle against the Central power. A clandestine conference was held as early as September, 1973, which drew up a new party programme envisaging armed struggle as the only way to achieve autonomy. But ambiguously, they spoke modestly on an autonomous region.

In mid 1978, Dr. Abdel Rahman Ghassemlou became the president at KBBI who has marxist-leninist ideology. While taking advantage of the weakness of Central authority Kurdish 'Pesh Mergas'<sup>29</sup> attacked the armies and the police posts in

28. Ghassemlou A.R., n. 10, p. 57.

29. Kurdish for Partisan (literal meaning "facing death").

Kurdistan and took control over Mahabad. Iranian Prime Minister Bazargan called on Kurdish leaders to negotiate with authority. The KDPI called public conference in which they reaffirmed demands that Kurdish be made an official language and that a parliament be established in Kurdish areas moreover at the first time Kurds themselves defining Kurdish areas on the basis of historical and geographical factors.

Indeed it was true that Kurds on the Iraqi side at the frontier were taking an active interest in Iranian development and some had crossed over. Khomeini accused the Kurds at plotting against the Islamic revolution and as a response to it, Khomeini called on the army to crush the rebellion but army was not yet in a condition to fight. Moreover Salas-At Jaff, a major Kurdish leader and husband of the daughter of Qazi Mohammed, legendary president of the Mahabad Republic said that Khomeini did a blunder in dealing with the Kurdish problem.

Some 200 died in fighting, which convinced the authority that it is dangerous to lose grip on Kurds and antagonizing leftist. So Khomeini despatched ayatollah Taleghani, who granted limited autonomy to Kurds.<sup>30</sup> As a result of this agreement Kurdish language introduced in Kurdish areas of Iran; Kurds were to run the local administration and Dr. Ghassemlou would participate in new constitution committee.

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30 International Herald Tribune (Paris), 7th December, 1979.

But the near collapse of Teheran's authority and Pesh mergas activity in Kurdistan caused for withdrawal of Dr. Bazargan's promises and he announced that in future autonomy concession would not be negotiated. Further Kurds boycotted Khomeini's referendum on the creation of an Islamic State in 1979.<sup>31</sup> It followed communal violence in Azerbaijan province between Kurds and Azers community that resulted into loss of hundreds of lives and thousands of people were rendered homeless.

Rural unrest prevailed in the Kurdistan because of non-implementation of Shah land reform and it provoked Kurds peasants to seize land from the landlords. The Government troops entered villages and often shooting at villages for gardening the Aghas'. On 26 June 1979 the KDPI issued a statement that, why the government was backing the aghas and insisting on KDPI's intention to negotiate on its autonomy demands.

Tehran's hostility to Kurdish dissidents was now hardening. Ayatollah Khomeini repeatedly denounced the Kurds as communist backed enemies of the revolution banned the KDPI and described Shaikh Hosseini and Dr. Ghassemleu as "traiters". On 19 August 1979, Khomeini again denounced and banned all Kurdish political organisations. The clashes continued till in August 1979 the delegation of Kurds went to discuss Kurdish peace plan with the central Iranian Government. But the plan was rejected by Khomeini. Moreover Khomeini appointed his envoy to crush the Kurds rather than to negotiate with the rebels. The military repression continued. Later Sheikh Hosseini put forward eight-point plan for Kurdish autonomy. However, the

strong offensive against Kurds continued specially concentrated in Sagger and Samandaj area.

Case of Iraq

In 1925 the League of nations sanctioned the new State's possession of Kurdish region for 25 years, with the recommendation that the Kurds be granted cultural rights and a degree of autonomy. Throughout this period the Iraqi's struggle to establish their ascendancy in Kurdish hold northernmost parts of the province. The Royal Air Force crushed a Barzani revolts in 1922 and a second in 1943. In the Kurdish history of 20th century the national movement sustained more strongly, politically and military in Iraq. After the collapse of Mahabad Kingdom in Iran, the Kurdish movement centre shifted to Iraqi Kurdistan. The Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP-Iraq) which was modelled on the Iranian KDP and was founded in 1946 on the recommendation of Mustafa Barzani before his escape to the U.S.S.R.<sup>32</sup> The Iraqi KDP has Marxist-Leninist line, which saw first two goals as emancipation of the country from Western influence and the winning of basic liberties.

General Kassem's coup on 14 July 1958, which ousted the monarchy, was widely welcomed, especially in Kurdistan. It was the best chance the Kurds had in many years to secure an autonomy. Moreover, Kassem himself saw in the Kurds a way of bolstering his own support against his opponents. Accordingly, for the first time Iraq was redefined as a country of two people - Arabs and Kurds. Mustafa Barzani

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32. Kessings Contemporary Archives, n. 25, Vol. XXV, p. 27567.

returned from the U.S.S.R. and secured the Presidentship of Iraqi KDP. Some 14 Kurdish language journals including two KDP-Organs : 'Khebat' (Struggle) and 'Kurdistan', began open publication.<sup>33</sup>

As the Kurdish cause began to wax, Kassem became increasingly suspicious of it as a possible threat to his rule. Concessions were revoked, Kurdish journals were closed and leading Kurds arrested. And a military offensive finally opened in 1961. Relations between Kassem and the Kurds had been deteriorating for some time, especially over the deportation of Kurds from the oil-rich Kirkuk area. Once the Iraqi offensive had begun they had no alternative but to join the insurgency. That converted into a natural revolt for self defence. The war continued for next nine years. Regimes including Kassem's came and went in Baghdad, but the fighting went on. A UN mission later reported that 40,000 houses were destroyed and 300,000 rendered homeless.<sup>34</sup> Numbering only about 1,000 in September, 1961 the Kurdish army rose to about 20,000 by the time of Kassem's fall from power in 1963 and had reached 50,000 by 1975. At the height of the insurgency some 40,000 sq. km. had been brought under KDP.<sup>35</sup>

33 O'Balance Edgar, The Kurdish Revolt 1961-70 (London, 1973) p. 61.

34 U.N. Development Programme Exploratory Mission to Northern Iraq (October 1971).

35 Chaliand, Gerard (Ed.) n.1, p. 166.

The Baath Party at Iraq came to power in February, 1963, which took drive against communists and Kurds. The second offensive against Kurds began on 10 June, 1963 in Kirkuk area of Kurdistan. Despite Syrians help to Baghdad, the offensive failed. There were further three more main offensives against Kurds till 1969. Baathist generals in Iraq ushered in "17th July 1968 Revolution". General Al-Bakr and Saddam Hussein took over the reins of Government and soon commenced with the plans for Kurdistan in April, 1969. The arm combats was worst in Arbil and Kirkuk area marked by mass expulsions. Central authority realised after unable to crush Kurdish resistance that continuing hostility with Kurds is a real threat to Iraqi integrity. Kurdish national aims had been moderate from the outset; they had involved not separation but the autonomy of Iraqi Kurdistan within the frame-work of the republic.

The agreement signed on 11th March, 1970 known as March Manifesto. This manifesto has recognised Kurdish minority and has given certain concessions and privileges to Kurds. The problem of Kurdistan in Iraq is not settled here. The problem rises over the exact definition of the area which was allocated to the autonomous zone. It was because the Baath party was not genuinely interested in sharing power and not willing to leave Kirkuk oil-rich area. From 1970 to 1974, the Iraqi Government engaged in dividing the Kurds and renewal of Arabisation programme. In August, 1974 Iraqi army launched the biggest offensive since the Kurdish war had begun in 1961. As a result 150,000 Kurds had fled to Iran,

often with the assistance of Imperial Iran. Baghdad committed almost all its forces to the fighting e.g., eight divisions (some 120,000 men), about 750 out of 900 tanks, the entire air force and a 20,000 strong police force. A few of the MIG-23 bombers were flown in by Soviet pilots.<sup>36</sup>

Iranian army assisted Kurd rebels of Iraq by giving some 122 mm field guns and anti-tank missiles. Later on Iran withdrew the support to Kurds because of the agreement with Iraq in settling the boundary dispute of Shatt-al-Arab. In return the Shah agreed to withdraw all support for the Kurds and this resulted into Kurds becoming helpless. The boundaries of Iran sealed on 1st April, 1974, however, before that Masafa Barzani and others KDP leaders fled to Iran in March.

To this end the Kurdish war had helped by diverting Baghdad's military efforts northwards, spoiling its economic plans and hindering the development of the country. This conflict had been the bloodiest. Officially Baghdad admitted the loss of over 60,000 as dead and wounded.

After the debacle, the camp of the Kurdish guerrilla movement split, each side accusing the other of being responsible for the defeat. Jallal Jalabani leader of KDP formed a new Party the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK). Meanwhile KDP has been reformed under the contract of Barzani's sons, Idris and Kassoud. Both the Parties were active during

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 36 Soviet Analyst, 2 January, 1975.

the time of Iran-Iraq War. KDP (PL) claimed success in several new attacks. The outbreak of war gave renewed hope to Pesh Mergas.

It is observed that whenever there is a weak Central power, Kurds revolted for their rights. In 1946, a political vacuum in Iran was exploited by Kurds and they formed the Kingdom of Mahabad. In 1958, Iraqi monarchy was overthrown by Kassem with the support of Kurds and in return they got recognition as partners of Arabs. In 1978, there was a turmoil at the Central imperialist power of Iran, that time Kurds opposed western imperialism and demanded autonomy in Iran.

During Iran-Iraq conflict, Kurds movement alternately supported Iran and Iraq in view of weakening them finally. Till 1976, Iraqi Kurds assisted Shah of Iran but after stopping help and non-implementation of land reforms in Kurdish area, Iraqi Kurds were the first to inspired Iranian Kurds against imperial authority of Shah.

Kurds always are considered as rebels by the Central Governments of the respective nation states. So whenever there was a Kurdish demand for autonomy, it was repressed by the Government. Existence of age old military presence and Marshal Law in Turkish Kurdistan, Kurdish national feelings got wet and depressed. In Iraq and Iran, the military offensive changed Kurdish nationalism from an extremist to modernist position and they want autonomous states within the framework of the central Government. Further the fraction between extremist and modernist assisted



in reduced strength of the Kurdish movement.

Further Kurdish movement on the face of crisis always asked for help from outside. But neither the western powers nor the socialist countries gave constant help by getting interested in helping Kurds for their human rights and independence but for strategic considerations. The laws of assimilation in Turkey removed word Kurds from their official records and denied minority rights to Kurds. The arabization of Iraqi Government programme suppressed Kurds. These two are the main obstacles in achievement of Kurdish autonomy.

Autonomy, within the framework of respected countries, is more or less possible. Kurds' nationalism is as old as the other countries in the region. The Kemalist Government of Turkey tried to abolish Kurdish nationalism through militarization of area for decades together, it was successful to some extent till the time that the majority of population was illiterate and isolated from the rest of the world. When petty bourgeois classes emerged the nationalist movement of Kurds became very strong specially in industrial and urbanised towns i.e. Diyarbakir, Bitlis, Siirt, Batman and so on.<sup>37</sup> Grant of some autonomy in Iraqi Kurdistan in 1970 and in Iran in 1979 resulted into further provocation of separatist ideas, which was viewed by the central regions as the threat to national integrity.

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37. Elphinston Col. W.G., "Kurds and their question", Royal Central Asian Journal, Vol. XXXV (January 1948) p. 39.

Kurds are fighting for their autonomy since last 60 years, hence this area has always been a problem area. Specially, in the last 20 years, the several arm uprisings and consequent loss of human lives and national wealth resulted into total neglect of the area being developed. However, with the more literate and politically more aware, they always look for opportunity to break the central power in Kurdistan and to establish an autonomous unit for themselves. But would it be feasible, is a big question mark which could be answered only with the passage of more time. However, it is a serious problem as it concerns the welfare and peace of the Kurd people.

(Contd.)

International Forces :

Likewise the involved nation states in the complex problem of Kurdistan area, the other nation states of the Middle East along with the other European and elsewhere powers have certain perspectives on Kurdistan area, partly strategic and partly otherwise. The key role of super powers has been very important and deserves special mention.

Soviet Policy : towards the Kurds has been pragmatic. The Kurds offer leverage against the anti-communist and anti-Soviet Governments of Turkey and Iran, and more generally the instability may open the door for Soviet infiltration in the Middle East. Certainly, Russian interest in the area is of longstanding. The Russian were first to use the Kurds in the 18th century as pawns in the Middle East power game, stirring dreams of Kurdish nationalism as a means of destabilising the Ottoman Empire.<sup>38</sup> And in 1914 as part of his price for entering the war against the central powers, the Western allies offered Kurdistan to Nicholas II.<sup>39</sup>

More striking were Soviet attitudes during the Allied occupation of Iran during World War II, which were in marked contrast to those of the British. Whereas the British, more concerned with denying the territory to German influence,

38. Hay W.A., n. 20, p. 128.

39. Ibid, p. 130.

permitted complete freedom of movement on the part of Iranian force, the Soviet authorities in the north, including Kurdistan, insisted that every Iranian troop movement down to platoon size could be carried out only by authorisation of local Soviet Commander. This opened the way to crumbling of Imperial influence and the setting up of the Mahabad Republic on 22 January, 1946.<sup>40</sup> However, the Soviet Union never sought an independent Kurdish State, but rather to detach it from Iran and integrate it fully into Soviet Azerbaijan, which they could not materialize.

Moscow's treatment of General Barzani tends to corroborate this view point. After the collapse of the Mahabad Republic, Barzani and his followers took refuge in the Soviet Union for 11 years (1947-58).<sup>41</sup> During their stay they were left under the supervision of 12 Soviet army officers, who kept them on the alert, ready for intervention in Iran, Iraq and Turkey. The expatriate Kurds received guerrilla training along with Marxist-Leninist instruction. Many secret visits to northern Iraq were made at this time and propaganda work was carried on. Following Barzani's return to Iraq in 1958<sup>42</sup>, it seemed the investment might bear fruit.

40. Elphinston W.G., n. 37, p. 47.

41. Keesing's contemporary Archives, (London : Keesing Publication, 1968) Vol. XIV. p. 2736.

42. Ibid.

Soviet Union and Iraq signed the Treaty of Friendship and co-operation on 9 April, 1972<sup>43</sup>, where Moscow pointed out that this treaty is not against the Kurdish people's struggle, it is for the cause of Baghdad's struggle against the giant oil companies. Apart from the usual diplomatic channels, Kurdish grievances were also expressed at the party level, notably in 1970 when the Soviet Union was celebrated Lenin's birth.

U.S.A. : United States has preconceived designs to capture the ex-colonial countries of European powers, and has started a new phase of colonialism (Neo-colonialism). American imperialism penetrated Turkey in 1948, under the Marshall Plan.<sup>44</sup> The weak economy of Turkey needed the foreign help in and exchange Turkey sent thousands of Turkish soldiers including many Kurds to fight in Korea and it joined NATO on 18 February, 1952.<sup>45</sup> And on 26th February, 1954 authorised U.S. to set up military bases and listening posts throughout the country Kurdistan included. In 1955, the Menderes regime signed the anti-communist and anti-Kurdish Baghdad Pact with Iraq, Iran and Pakistan.<sup>46</sup>

43. Vanly J.S., Kurdistan in Iraq, in Chaliand G., n.1, p. 184.

44. Ibid. p. 177.

45. Keesings Archives, n. 10, Vol. IX p. 13183 B.

46. Schmidt D.A., "Present Development in the Kurdish War, "Journal of the Royal Central Asian Society, Vol. LIII, (London), 1966, p. 27.

Only after 1962 United States took direct and keen interest in Iraqi Kurdistan to weaken the Kassem's Socialist regime. Though KDP-Iraq and Kassem have communist ideology they had differences on power sharing at Centre, which Kassem denied to give popular share to Kurds. In 1961 because of Kurdish gurrilla activity, Kassem took first offensive against Kurds. When U.S.A. supported Kurds by giving aid through Iran's Shah they had secret agreement between Nixon, Kissinger and Shah of Iran to support Kurds by giving financial and arm supply through CIA agents. The U.S. aid programme to the Kurds, 'which would ultimately involve total aid of \$16 million', was finally approved by the President following a private meeting between the Shah and Kissinger'.<sup>47</sup>

The Pike R<sup>e</sup>port stresses that Neither the foreign Head of State (the Shah) nor the President and Dr. Kissinger desired victory for our clients (the Kurds). They merely hoped to ensure that the insurgents would be capable of sustaining a level of hostility just high enough to sap the resources of the neighbouring state.<sup>48</sup>

During Mr. Nixon's visit to Tehran in 1972, the Shah of Iran asked President to arm the Kurds against Iraqi Government. Mr. Nixon ordered C.I.A. to send to the Kurds million of rounds of ammunition.

47. Asian Records, 1963, Vol. IX, p. 5345.

48. Gardian (London), 14 March, 1975.

Kurdish saying, 'the Kurds have no friends', has been repeatedly proven. In the final analysis, it is hard to avoid the conclusion that whatever dramatic changes there may be in the region, the Kurds will for ever be the pawns of strategic consideration and plans. Most local powers - Iran, Iraq and Syria have manipulated this. Similarly, both the U.S.A. and the Soviet Union have helped Kurdish rebels for their gains.

Apart from the involvement of super powers in Kurdistan, Britain, France, West Germany, Pakistan and others are involved directly or indirectly. Till the 1958 British domination over Iraq was very much. British forces repressed Kurdish rebels till the Second World War. Though Britain talking about Kurdish independence or autonomy, they well took offensive against Kurdish rebels in 1932<sup>49</sup> when Iraq was under their mandate. After the U.S. and U.S.S.R. more involvement in the region other countries of Europe do not have much involvement in Kurdish problem. Even though all European imperialist powers became always sympathizers of Kurds independent for their human rights. Pakistan has also minority problems in their state so it involved in the Baghdad pact for internal security which is against the Kurdish independence struggle. Mongolian people's Republic has <sup>the</sup> raised question of Kurdish repression before the General Assembly but soon after in view of Afro-Asian solidarity they withdrawn it.<sup>50</sup>

49. Elphinston W.G., n. 37, p. 45.

50. Kelidar, (Abbas), "The Search for Stability", Conflict Studies, No. 59, 1975, p. 16.

United Nations :

Manifestation of Russian policy occurred in 1963 when on 29th June, soon after the opening of the Baath Junta's offensive in Iraq,<sup>51</sup> the Mongolian People's Republic, in a violently-worded cable to the Secretary-General of the United Nations,<sup>52</sup> denounced the atrocities being perpetrated against the Kurdish people in response to their just demand for autonomy within the Iraqi State, and asked for inclusion in the provisional agenda for the General Assembly in October, as 'an item of an important and urgent character' of the question of the policy of genocide carried out by the Government of the Republic of Iraq. This was followed some ten days later by two similar communications from the U.S.S.R. itself, one to the Economic and Social Council demanding an immediate debate (the demand was rejected by a majority of 13 to 2, with three abstentions), and another to the Security Council repeating the substance of the first two.<sup>53</sup>

The Kurds themselves have attempted on numerous occasions to interest the United Nations. Since 1961 seven delegations representing the DPK have travelled to New York only to find that Governments, like Politicians, are highly selective in their choice of causes for manifestations of moral indignation, and that not one of the hundred-odd

51. Asian Record, n. 17, Vol. IX, p. 5345.

52. O'Balance J., n. 33, p. 53.

53. Society Analyst, 2 January, 1975.



members was prepared to place their case on the agenda of any one of the organs of the successor to the League of Nations. Numerous letters to the Secretariat have also proved fruitless.

Both regional and international forces have been quite sharp on Kurdistan. The geographical compulsion along with ethnic characteristics have given a paramount strategic importance to this area to become a complex issue for the contending nation states having immediate involvement as well as the other regional and international ones. The question of autonomy is rather a vexed one and evades a solution acceptable to all concerned parties. The upshot of this is that the Kurdish people remain underdeveloped inspite of natural endowments.

CHAPTER VII

CONCLUSION

### CONCLUSION

Kurdistan Region epitomises the endproducts of the geographical, socio-economic and political structure in its regional set up. The processes emanated within the historical frame work have manifested themselves in various patterns and forms, which are typically under developed in character. Whether it is the question of the economy or the society or the polity, the overwhelming situation is that of under-development, which should not be the case within the given geographical situation, specially pertaining to its endowments, both natural and human. No body would deny this fact that the human element, i.e., Kurd, is the most dynamic and hardy and could match the best human material, elsewhere.

The regional structure is complex and denies easy explanations. It is rather enigmatic in nature and leaves one spellbound, as it is slightly difficult to analyse. However, one would remark that the impress of the geographical milieu is rather too bold in several forms. Physiographic complications and diversities are bold enough to warrant any development. Besides the syntax situation in the north-west of Kurdistan where Elburz and Zagros meet, the physiographic characteristics are mostly Zagros in origin, i.e., it is highly folded and faulted and the upshot of this is that there are beautiful vast lakes and deep gorges, leaving little land suitable for cultivation. In the south and south-west, the physiography gets subdued and ends itself to flat wide open fields, but the desertic environment engulfs it and again

renders it a wasteland. In association with the physiography, the climatic harshness, varying from the cold-wet regime of the north and north-west to the semi-arid to arid<sup>of South</sup> leaves no scope for any easy sizeable development in agriculture.

Agriculture is the mainstay of the people along with the livestock rearing which highly <sup>adds</sup> substantiated to the income of the people. Agriculture varies from shifting to the sedantary in character. A wide variety of crops are grown but because the cultivation is limited and precarious, the crop diversification is rather difficult. However, the feed crops dominate. The productivity is rather low, which explains the restricted soil fertility. Livestock economy is basically the best fit for this hilly terrain and <sup>the</sup> seasonal fluctuations of the weather which compel the people to adhere to transhumance. The pastures are profusely rich in variety and yield and strong enough to a balanced livestock economy.

Kurds by nature as well as traditions are the wandering people along with their herds of cattle, sheep and goats. The net-result is that the settlements are hardly permanent in character and evergrow in size. With the passage of time and with the sedantization of agriculture, the settlements roots get deep and become permanent. Big and permanent settlements are well-entrenched in flat valleys or along the shores of the lakes. Mostly, the permanent villages are linear in character and are associated with multi-nuclei, small size temporary to semi-permanent herdsmen's settlements on the top flat areas which become full of life during the

summers. Kurds are ethnically very homogeneous in character but still as a result of areas of isolation due to the physiography, there are sub-groups who hardly communicate with each other. However, the long-drawn political turmoil and ambivalence has given a sense of oneness and unity to these groups and sub-groups and the result is that Kurds stand united against the imperialistic forces as well as nationalistic forces of the much recent origin.

Spatial patterns of the economy and the regional diversities and disparities have controlled the population distribution pattern, which is highly uneven in <sup>its</sup> spread. It is surprising that in spite of the difficult political impasse, the population growth is rather phenomenal. Both, the rural and the urban population have shown rapid growth. The imbalances are mostly prominent in its occupational character and the ratio of workers to non-workers. This directly puts one thing very prominently, i.e., the political ambivalence <sup>and</sup> suppression has resulted into high dependency ratios and the much dependence on the primary sector. The urban centres are few and far between and mostly small to medium size in character, except the city of Kermanshah which epitomises the very ethos, fervour and essence of Kurdish life and culture. Urban centres are mostly service centres with preponderance of the service sector. The industrial backwardness has resulted into a weak urban economic base.

Regionalization could be done but the paucity of data and information has forestalled such an attempt. However, one would carve out some macro and micro-regions, which are basically the result of the physiographic framework and climatic variations. Within the given framework, the schemes and techniques of region building are not used here.

Kurdistan region, although physiographically highly diversified, is ethnically an unified region and throughout its history has stood as one single whole entity. Pre-Ottoman period is <sup>h</sup>surrounded in dusty oblivion but still one would assert that the Kurds and Kurdish tract has never permanently remained subjugated. Later on, with in the mighty framework of the Ottoman empire on one hand and the Shabs of Iran, the Kurdish region experienced frequent changing political controls, which got further formalised as the result of European diplomacy and conspiracies. It comes to the present situation, i.e., it stands divided into several nation states, i.e., Iran, Iraq, Turkey, and Syria etc.

It is unprecedented<sup>ed</sup> in character as it divided the ethnically one group of people. Besides balkanisation into several political units governed by other majority groups, the process of suppression set in heavily with the beginning of the 20th century. Kurds entered a phase of political ambivalence, turmoil and hardships.

Geographically, autonomy is a desirable thing and it should be welcomed but politically, it is difficult to achieve,

as it is beyond the regional and international forces which could help in developing an atmosphere which could usher in such a situation. Nationalistic forces are rather well-entrenched and strong enough not to yield to any pressures. Within the given situation, autonomy for Kurds may not be given, although it is the most welcomed situation. When this would happen, one cannot forecast it. In what forms it should come, cannot be explained. However, one would add here that the region awaits development and it should not be denied to the people of the region, i.e. Kurds.

T A B L E S



Table No.2  
Climatological Table of Precipitation and Temperature

Temp. in °C, Precipitation in MM

| Sl. No. | Station    | Years of Data | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr.  | May   | Jun.  | Jul. | Aug.  | Sep.  | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan to Dec. |
|---------|------------|---------------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|------|------|------|-------------|
| 1.      | Rezaiyeh   | 1931-60       | -0.1 | 1.95 | 5.7  | 12.15 | 17.15 | 21.25 | 24.7 | 24.85 | 21.55 | 15.0 | 7.17 | 1.55 | 12.70 T     |
|         |            | "             | 28.2 | 43.0 | 68.1 | 68.6  | 44.90 | 20.00 | 6.50 | 1.6   | 6.1   | 10.3 | 47.7 | 25.8 | 370 P P     |
| 2.      | Hamadan    | "             | -0.5 | 1.35 | 5.3  | 11.1  | 15.2  | 20.2  | 23.6 | 22.3  | 19.7  | 13.5 | 5.15 | 1.0  | 11.7 T      |
|         |            | "             | 36.0 | 52.0 | 72.9 | 78.9  | 32.7  | 5.6   | 1.3  | 0.5   | 0.7   | 11.8 | 51.8 | 40.2 | 385.2 P     |
| 3.      | Mosul      | "             | 6.5  | 8.6  | 12.0 | 17.3  | 23.9  | 30.2  | 33.7 | 32.7  | 26.9  | 20.1 | 13.1 | 7.9  | 19.4 T      |
|         |            | "             | 70   | 67   | 65   | 55    | 20    | 1     | T    | 0     | T     | 7    | 43   | 62   | 390 P       |
| 4.      | Kirkuk     | 1938-60       | 8.6  | 10.2 | 13.3 | 19.4  | 26.4  | 32.3  | 35.1 | 34.8  | 30.4  | 24.2 | 16.5 | 10.6 | 22.0 T      |
|         |            | "             | 58   | 66   | 85   | 47    | 17    | T     | 0    | 0     | T     | 3    | 42   | 62   | 3.81 P      |
| 5.      | Van        | 1941-60       | -3.4 | -3.2 | 0.4  | 7.0   | 13.1  | 18.0  | 22.1 | 21.7  | 17.2  | 10.5 | 4.2  | -1.3 | 9.9 T       |
|         |            | "             | 45   | 36   | 48   | 53    | 40    | 16    | 7    | 3     | 12    | 45   | 48   | 31   | 384 P       |
| 6.      | Diyarbakir | 1931-60       | 1.5  | 3.6  | 7.9  | 13.9  | 19.2  | 25.7  | 31.0 | 30.5  | 24.9  | 17.2 | 9.9  | 3.8  | 15.7 T      |
|         |            | "             | 79   | 65   | 63   | 73    | 42    | 8     | 1    | 1     | 3     | 29   | 58   | 68   | 489 P       |

Source:- Climatological Normals (Climo) For Climate and Climateship Stations for the period 1931-60. ed. 1971, WMO/OMM, No.117, TP. 52, Geneva.

(T = 0.5 mm)

Note :- T = Temperature  
P = Precipitation

Table No.3

Population Growth by Provinces 1945-75

| Province                  | Popula-<br>tion in<br>1945 | Popula-<br>tion in<br>1955-<br>1957 | Popula-<br>tion in<br>1965-<br>1966 | Popula-<br>tion in<br>1975-<br>1970 | Increa-<br>se in<br>1955<br>over<br>1945 | Increa-<br>se in<br>1965<br>over<br>1955 | Increa-<br>se in<br>1975<br>over<br>1965 | Ann-<br>al %<br>inc-<br>rease<br>1945<br>to<br>1955 | Ann-<br>al %<br>inc-<br>rease<br>1955<br>to<br>1965 | Ann-<br>al %<br>inc-<br>rease<br>1965<br>to<br>1975 | %age<br>incr-<br>ease<br>in '75<br>over<br>1965 |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| 1                         | 2                          | 3                                   | 4                                   | 5                                   | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  |
| 1. Agri                   | 133504                     | 189348                              | 246961                              | 330201                              | 55844                                    | 57613                                    | 83240                                    | 4.1   | 3.04  | 3.37  | 34  |
| 2. Bingol                 | 75510                      | 113341                              | 150521                              | 210804                              | 37831                                    | 37180                                    | 60283                                    | 5.01  | 3.28  | 4.00  | 40  |
| 3. Bitlis                 | 71950                      | 111187                              | 154069                              | 318305                              | 39237                                    | 42882                                    | 164236                                   | 5.45  | 3.85  | 10.65   | 07  |
| 4. Diyarbakir             | 249949                     | 343903                              | 475916                              | 651233                              | 93954                                    | 132013                                   | 175317                                   | 3.75  | 3.84  | 3.68  | 37  |
| 5. Hakkari                | 35124                      | 54924                               | 84091                               | 126036                              | 19700                                    | 29267                                    | 41945                                    | 5.6   | 5.33  | 4.98  | 50  |
| 6. Mardin                 | 234457                     | 305520                              | 397880                              | 519687                              | 71063                                    | 92360                                    | 121807                                   | 3.03  | 3.02  | 3.06  | 31  |
| 7. Mus                    | 82699                      | 136401                              | 198716                              | 267203                              | 53702                                    | 62315                                    | 68487                                    | 6.49  | 4.57  | 3.45  | 34  |
| 8. Siirt                  | 133627                     | 191234                              | 264832                              | 381503                              | 57607                                    | 73598                                    | 116671                                   | 4.31  | 3.84  | 4.40  | 44  |
| 9. Van                    | 127858                     | 175250                              | 266686                              | 386314                              | 47392                                    | 91436                                    | 119628                                   | 3.43  | 5.22  | 4.49  | 45  |
| Total Turkey              | 18790174                   | 24064163                            | 31391421                            | 40347719                            | 5273989                                  | 7327258                                  | 5956298                                  | 2.80  | 3.04  | 2.85  | 29  |
| 10. W. Azerbaijan         | 526429                     | 721136                              | 1087182                             | 1407602                             | 195709                                   | 366046                                   | 320420                                   | 1.36  | 5.07  | 2.94  | 29  |
| 11. Kermanshah            | 408080                     | 1376989                             | 1814000                             | 2264760                             | 968909                                   | 437011                                   | 450760                                   | 3.37  | 3.17  | 2.48  | 25  |
| 12. Kurdistan             | 399897                     | 555413                              | 619573                              | 794290                              | 155516                                   | 64160                                    | 174717                                   | 1.38  | 1.15  | 2.82  | 28  |
| Total Iran                | 13647386                   | 18954704                            | 25078923                            | 33708744                            | 5307318                                  | 6124219                                  | 8629821                                  | 1.38  | 3.23  | 3.24  | 34  |
| 13. Al-Tameem<br>(Kirkuk) | 286005                     | 388839                              | 473686                              | 439000                              | 102834                                   | 84787                                    | 179977                                   | 3.59  | 2.18  | 3.8   | 38  |

Table No.3

| 1                    | 2       | 3       | 4       | 5        | 6       | 7       | 8       | 9    | 10   | 11   | 12 |
|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|------|------|------|----|
| 14. Dhok             | 595190  | 755447  | 888601  | 210000   | 166257  | 133154  | 302124  | 2.69 | 1.79 | 3.4  | 34 |
| 15. Arbil            | 239776  | 273383  | 356293  | 493000   | 33607   | 82910   | 163894  | 1.40 | 3.03 | 4.6  | 46 |
| 16. Al.Sulaimaniya   | 226400  | 304895  | 399768  | 656000   | 78495   | 94873   | 187890  | 3.46 | 3.11 | 4.7  | 47 |
| Total Iraq           | 5452365 | 6339960 | 8047415 | 11505333 | 1707455 | 3457585 | 3457585 | 4.29 | 2.69 | 4.29 | 43 |
| Total Kurdis-<br>tan | 3826455 | 5997110 | 7157743 | 9457240  | 2170655 | 1160633 | 2299497 | 5.6  | 3.63 | 4.17 | 32 |

Note: \* Estimated Population  
 + Population after change of provincial area

Sources: (i) United Nations Demographic Year Books 1945, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75 and 80 (United Nations Publications) New York.  
 (ii) Annual Abstract of Statistical 1976 (Bagdad, Republic of Iraq, Ministry of Planning, Central Statistical Organisation 1976).  
 (iii) National Census of Population and Housing, Nov. 1976, Sr. No.186, (Tehran) Islamic Republic of Iran, Plan and Budget Organisation, Statistical Centre of Iran, Jan. 1981.  
 (iv) Statistical Year Book of Turkey 1979, Pub. No. 890 (Ankara: Prime Ministry State Institute of Statistics, 1979)

Table No. 4  
DENSITY OF POPULATION  
1965-75

| Province                  | Area     | Popula-<br>tion<br>1965 | Popula-<br>tion<br>1975 | Density of<br>population<br>per sq. km |       | %age of<br>total<br>Kurdish-<br>thnn's<br>popu. |
|---------------------------|----------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|-------|---|
|                           |          |                         |                         | 1965                                   | 1975  |   |
| 1. Agri                   | 11458    | 246961                  | 330201                  | 21.55                                  | 23.84 | 4.01  |
| 2. Bingol                 | 8911     | 150521                  | 210804                  | 16.89                                  | 23.66 | 2.55  |
| 3. Bitlis                 | 6674     | 154069                  | 318305                  | 15.48                                  | 47.69 | 3.86  |
| 4. Diyarbakir             | 15400    | 475916                  | 651233                  | 30.90                                  | 42.29 | 7.91  |
| 5. Hakkari                | 9885     | 84091                   | 126036                  | 8.51                                   | 12.75 | 1.53  |
| 6. Mardin                 | 12879    | 397880                  | 519687                  | 30.89                                  | 40.35 | 6.28  |
| 7. Nus                    | 8697     | 198716                  | 267203                  | 22.85                                  | 30.72 | 3.24  |
| 8. Siirt                  | 12462    | 264932                  | 331503                  | 21.25                                  | 30.61 | 4.63  |
| 9. Van                    | 19797    | 266686                  | 386314                  | 13.47                                  | 19.51 | 4.69  |
| Turkey Total              | 805689   | 31391431                | 40347719                | 38.96                                  | 50.08 | -   |
| 10 W. Azerbaijan          | 43660    | 1087182                 | 1407604                 | 24.90                                  | 27.67 | 17.11   |
| 11. Kermanshah            | 628825   | 1814000                 | 2264760                 | 28.84                                  | 36.97 | 12.52   |
| 12. Kurdistan             | 24998    | 619573                  | 974290                  | 28.78                                  | 31.77 | 9.65  |
| Iran Total                | 1648000  | 25078923                | 33708744                | 15.22                                  | 20.45 | -   |
| 13. Al-Tameem<br>(Kirkuk) | 9426     | 332498                  | 439000                  | 35.27                                  | 46.47 | 5.33  |
| 14. Dhok                  | 6374     | 160883                  | 217000                  | 25.26                                  | 35.03 | 2.63  |
| 15. Arbil                 | 14428    | 356241                  | 493000                  | 24.69                                  | 34.17 | 5.99  |
| 16. Al-Sulemaniya         | 16482    | 399768                  | 656000                  | 33.23                                  | 39.80 | 7.97  |
| Iraq Total                | 434000   | 8047415                 | 11505000                | 18.54                                  | 26.51 | -   |
| Kurdistan                 | 234413.5 | 7157743                 | 9457240                 | 25.17                                  | 33.25 | 100.00  |

Table No. 5  
RURAL DENSITY 1975

| Province           | Area     | Total<br>popula-<br>tion<br>1975 | Rural<br>popula-<br>tion<br>1975 | Density<br>of rural<br>populat-<br>ion per<br>sq. km |
|--------------------|----------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Agri            | 11458    | 330201                           | 218494                           | 19.06  |
| 2. Bingol          | 8911     | 210804                           | 142440                           | 15.98  |
| 3. Bitlis          | 6674     | 318305                           | 217370                           | 32.56  |
| 4. Diyarbakir      | 15400    | 652233                           | 347225                           | 22.54  |
| 5. Hakkari         | 9885     | 126036                           | 81469                            | 8.28   |
| 6. Murdin          | 12879    | 519637                           | 339199                           | 26.33  |
| 7. Mus             | 8697     | 267203                           | 189938                           | 21.84  |
| 8. Siirt           | 12462    | 381503                           | 209941                           | 16.84  |
| 9. Van             | 19797    | 386314                           | 237467                           | 11.99  |
| 10. Turkey Total   | 805699   | 40347719                         | 1983600                          | 30.67  |
| 10. W. Azerbaijan  | 43660    | 1407602                          | 960840                           | 22.00  |
| 11. Kermanshah     | 62882.5  | 1030712                          | 588829                           | 23.98  |
| 12. Kurdistan      | 24993    | 782440                           | 592055                           | 23.68  |
| Iran Total         | 1.643000 | 33703722                         | 17854054                         | 10.83  |
| 13. Al-Tamem       | 19543    | 462027                           | 238622                           | 12.17  |
| 14. Dhok (Mosul)   | 50881    | 954175                           | 564477                           | 11.09  |
| 15. Arbil          | 15315    | 320285                           | 226068                           | 14.76  |
| 16. Al. Sulemaniya | 11993    | 403220                           | 1305539                          | 23.09  |
| Iraq Total         | 438446   | 8261527                          | 5430923                          | 10.52  |
| Kurdistan Total    | 284413.5 | 9457240                          | 7192743                          | 25.29  |

Table No. 6  
Urban Centres

| Location and Group Size | Name of city     | Abrr. of Provinces in which U.C. is situated | Urban population 1975 |
|-------------------------|------------------|--|-----------------------|
| <b>IRAN</b>             |                  |  |                       |
| More than               |                  |  |                       |
| I 1,00,000              | Kermanshah,      | (Ker)  | 290 600               |
|                         | Rezaiyeh,        | (W.A.)                                       | 1 644 19              |
|                         | Hamadan          | (Ker)  | 1 657 85              |
| II. 50,000-1,00,000     | Khoy city        | (W.A.)                                       | 70 357                |
|                         | Sannandaj        | (Kur)  | 95,872                |
| III. 25,000-50,000      | Mahabad          | (W.A.)                                       | 44,067                |
|                         | Islamabad        | (Ker)  | 30,000                |
|                         | Songor           | (Kur)  | 30,661                |
|                         | Miyanolob        | (W.A.)                                       | 27,639                |
|                         | Salmas (Shahpur) | (W.A.)                                       | 27,638                |
|                         | Malayer          | (Ker)  | 47,117                |
|                         | Ilan             | (Ker)  | 32,476                |
|                         | Mohvand          | (Ker)  | 29,509                |
| IV. 20,000-25,000       | Naguden          | (W.A.)                                       | 23,836                |
|                         | Quaser-Shirin    | (Ker)  | 23,224                |
|                         | Bukan            | (W.A.)                                       | 20,579                |
| V. 15,000-20,000        | Songorker        | (Ker)  | 19,702                |
|                         | Sarpol-e-zohab   | (Ker)  | 18,522                |
|                         | Harsin           | (Ker)  | 18,002                |
|                         | Bijar            | (Kur)  | 17,224                |
|                         | Kungavar         | (Ker)  | 16,396                |
|                         | Banch            | (Kur)  | 15,552                |
|                         | Turyserken       | (Ker)  | 18,573                |

|    |               |                 |        |        |
|----|---------------|-----------------|--------|--------|
| VI | 10,000-15,000 | Murivan         | (Kur)  | 13,610 |
|    |               | Takab           | (W.A.) | 12,885 |
|    |               | Maku city       | (W.A.) | 11,966 |
|    |               | Qorveh          | (Kur)  | 11,515 |
|    |               | Sahmen          | (Ker)  | 11,133 |
|    |               | Pivanshahr city | (W.A.) | 10,572 |
|    |               | Suddasht        | (W.A.) | 10,207 |
|    |               | Bahar           | (Ker)  | 14,489 |

IRAQ

|      |                    |             |          |          |
|------|--------------------|-------------|----------|----------|
| I.   | More than 1,00,000 | Kirkuk      | (Kir)    | 1,67,413 |
| II.  | 50,000-1,00,000    | Arbil       | (Arbil)  | 90,320   |
|      |                    | Sulaimaniya | (Al-Sul) | 86,822   |
| III. | 25,000-50,000      | -           | -        | -        |
| IV.  | 20,000-25,000      | -           | -        | -        |
| V.   | 15,000-20,000      | Dhok        | (Dhok)   | 16,998   |
| VI.  | 10,000-15,000      | Zakho       | (Dhok)   | 14,790   |
|      |                    | Tooz        | (Al-Tam) | 13,860   |
|      |                    | Halabeha    | (Al-Sul) | 11,206   |
|      |                    | Koisanjaq   | (Arbi)   | 10,338   |

TURKEY

|      |                    |            |         |          |
|------|--------------------|------------|---------|----------|
| I.   | More than 1,00,000 | Diyarbakir |         | 1,69,535 |
| II.  | 50,000-1,00,000    | Batman     | (Siirt) | 64,384   |
|      |                    | Van        |         | 63,663   |
| III. | 25,000-50,000      | Mardin     |         | 36,629   |
|      |                    | Siirt      |         | 35,654   |
|      |                    | Agri       |         | 35,284   |
|      |                    | Silvan     | (Diyar) | 29,599   |

|     |               |              |          |        |
|-----|---------------|--------------|----------|--------|
|     |               | Tutran       | (Bitlis) | 29,271 |
|     |               | Mus          |          | 27,761 |
|     |               | Bitlis       |          | 25,054 |
| IV. | 20,000-25,000 | Nusaybin     | (Mardin) | 23,634 |
|     |               | Ercis        | (Van)    | 22,351 |
|     |               | Bingol       |          | 22,047 |
|     |               | Ergani       | (Diyar)  | 21,936 |
|     |               | Kiziltege    | (Mardin) | 21,531 |
| V.  | 15,000-20,000 | Diogubeyazit | (Agri)   | 17,612 |
|     |               | Midyat       | (Mardin) | 16,905 |
|     |               | Patnos       | (Agri)   | 15,918 |
|     |               | Cizre        | (Mardin) | 15,557 |
| VI. | 10,000-15,000 | Derik        | (Mardin) | 13,292 |
|     |               | Marzirt      | (Mus)    | 13,094 |
|     |               | Bismil       | (Diya)   | 12,775 |
|     |               | Hukkari      |          | 11,735 |
|     |               | Sirhak       | (Siirt)  | 10,537 |



Table No. 7  
SEX RATIO DISTRIBUTION

| Provinces         | Total<br>popula-<br>tion<br>1975 | Male     | Female   | Female<br>per 1000<br>males |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Agri           | 330201                           | 176676   | 153525   | 868.9                       |
| 2. Bingol         | 210804                           | 110954   | 99850    | 899.8                       |
| 3. Bitlis         | 219305                           | 115955   | 102350   | 882.6                       |
| 4. Diyarbakir     | 651233                           | 343797   | 307436   | 894.2                       |
| 5. Hakkari        | 12603 6                          | 68264    | 57772    | 846.3                       |
| 6. Mardin         | 519687                           | 269675   | 250012   | 972.0                       |
| 7. Mus            | 267203                           | 138880   | 128323   | 923.9                       |
| 8. Siirt          | 381503                           | 201023   | 180480   | 897.8                       |
| 9. Van            | 386314                           | 203229   | 183085   | 900.8                       |
| Turkey Total      | 40347719                         | 20744730 | 19602989 | 984.9                       |
| 10. W. Azarbaijan | 1407604                          | 729314   | 678285   | 930.0                       |
| 11. Kermanshah    | 1030714                          | 520287   | 490227   | 942.2                       |
| 12. Kurdistan     | 782440                           | 410477   | 371952   | 906.1                       |
| Iran Total        | 39708744                         | 17356347 | 16452397 | 947.9                       |
| 13. Al-Tamoom     | 462027                           | 238037   | 223990   | 940.9                       |
| 14. Dhok          | 954157                           | 489289   | 464868   | 950.0                       |
| 15. Arbil         | 360235                           | 181395   | 172890   | 922.5                       |
| 16. Al-Sulemaniya | 403220                           | 210262   | 19758    | 941.1                       |
| Iraq Total        | 8261527                          | 4155201  | 4056326  | 976.2                       |

Table No.8  
L I T E R A C Y

| Province           | Total population | Total Male | Total female | Illiterate |         | %age Illi- |        | Illite-<br>rate<br>total |
|--------------------|------------------|------------|--------------|------------|---------|------------|--------|--------------------------|
|                    |                  |            |              | Male       | Female  | Male       | Female |                          |
| 1                  | 2                | 3          | 4            | 5          | 6       | 7          | 8      | 9                        |
| 1. Agri            | 22139            | 118445     | 103694       | 59332      | 99393   | 26.70      | 40.24  | 66.94                    |
| 2. Bingol          | 136395           | 70746      | 66149        | 35168      | 53039   | 26.42      | 33.74  | 65.16                    |
| 3. Bitlis          | 143784           | 76895      | 66889        | 42057      | 58331   | 29.25      | 40.60  | 69.85                    |
| 4. Diyarbakir      | 445145           | 233171     | 211974       | 123861     | 178546  | 27.82      | 40.11  | 69.93                    |
| 5. Hakkari         | 77671            | 41999      | 35672        | 27072      | 32847   | 34.85      | 42.23  | 77.13                    |
| 6. Hurdin          | 347632           | 178435     | 169197       | 104453     | 150519  | 30.04      | 43.29  | 73.33                    |
| 7. Mus             | 173512           | 89571      | 83941        | 45241      | 71868   | 26.07      | 41.41  | 67.84                    |
| 8. Siirt           | 324477           | 120624     | 513853       | 70939      | 99311   | 30.25      | 42.35  | 72.60                    |
| 9. Van             | 255425           | 135879     | 119546       | 27789      | 95625   | 28.49      | 37.43  | 65.92                    |
| 20. Turkey Total   | 29273361         | 14792036   | 14415325     | 4393495    | 8424341 | 15.00      | 23.77  | 43.79                    |
| 10. W. Azerbaijan  | 1407604          | 729319     | 678285       | 392712     | 640979  | 32.52      | 94.50  | 85.60                    |
| 11. Kermanshab     | 1030714          | 502287     | 490227       | 327663     | 401005  | 31.79      | 81.80  | 70.70                    |
| 12. Kurdistan      | 782440           | 410477     | 371952       | 325495     | 354470  | 41.60      | 95.30  | 86.40                    |
| Iran Total         | 33708144         | 17356347   | 16452397     | 10432670   | 1316917 | 36.95      | 39.50  | 70.00                    |
| 13. Al-Tameem      | 338839           | 198112     | 80515        | 117597     | 191166  | 30.24      | 36.30  | 66.54                    |
| 14. Dhok           | 755446           | 382955     | 372492       | 221989     | 268211  | 29.96      | 34.99  | 63.95                    |
| 15. Erbil          | 273383           | 137957     | 135426       | 88384      | 103520  | 32.32      | 37.86  | 70.18                    |
| 16. Al-Sulaimaniya | 304895           | 153624     | 146071       | 101960     | 110026  | 33.44      | 36.08  | 69.52                    |

Table No.9  
Workers in Different Occupations

| IRAN            |                   | A: No. of Workers, B: %age<br>(in Hundreds) |                 |                        |                                       |       |                |          |        |   |
|-----------------|-------------------|---|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|----------------|----------|--------|---|
| Provinces       | No. of<br>workers | in<br>Agricu-<br>lture                      | Indus-<br>tries | Cons-<br>truc-<br>tion | Water<br>and<br>Elec-<br>trici-<br>ty | Trade | Trans-<br>port | Services | Others |   |
| IRAN            | 44751             | 23314                                       | 6186            | 2445                   | 100                                   | 1277  | 545            | 1571     | 313    | A |
|                 |                   | 52.1  | 13.82           | 5.46                   | 0.22                                  | 2.85  | 1.22           | 3.51     | 0.70   | B |
| West Azerbaijan | 2461              | 2239  | 40              | 20                     | 0                                     | 56    | 14             | 60       | 32     | A |
|                 |                   | 90.98                                       | 1.63            | 0.81                   | 0                                     | 2.28  | 0.57           | 2.84     | 1.30   | B |
| Kermanshah      | 3403              | 2416  | 583             | 212                    | 1                                     | 120   | 32             | 90       | 23     | A |
|                 |                   | 70.0  | 17.13           | 6.23                   | 0.03                                  | 3.53  | 0.94           | 2.64     | 0.68   | B |
| Kurdistan       | 1428              | 1261  | 19              | 55                     | 0                                     | 26    | 7              | 30       | 32     | A |
|                 |                   | 88.31                                       | 1.33            | 3.85                   | 0                                     | 1.82  | 0.49           | 2.10     | 2.24   | B |

Note :- Similar data break down for Iraqi and Turkish parts is not available

Table No. 10  
No. of Hospitals, Beds and Doctor's by Provinces  
1976-1978

| Provinces        | No.<br>of<br>Hospitals<br>1978 | No.<br>of Beds | No.<br>of<br>Docto-<br>rs | %age to country's |      |         |
|------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-------------------|------|---------|
|                  |                                |                |                           | Hospi-<br>tals    | Beds | Doctors |
| 1. Agri          | 4                              | 150            | 34                        | .51               | .17  | .11     |
| 2. Bingol        | 4                              | 130            | 12                        | .51               | .16  | .04     |
| 3. Bitlis        | 4                              | 145            | 16                        | .51               | .16  | .05     |
| 4. Diyarbakir    | 16                             | 1760           | 337                       | 2.06              | 2.03 | 1.17    |
| 5. Hakkari       | 2                              | 60             | 13                        | .25               | .06  | .04     |
| 6. Mardin        | 6                              | 270            | 37                        | .64               | .31  | .12     |
| 7. Mus           | 3                              | 210            | 18                        | .38               | .24  | .06     |
| 8. Siirt         | 7                              | 320            | 45                        | .90               | .35  | .15     |
| 9. Van           | 4                              | 220            | 56                        | .51               | .25  | .19     |
| 10 Turkey Total  | 776                            | 86526          | 28767                     |                   |      |         |
| 10 W. Azarbaijan | 20                             | 1160           | 252                       | 3.98              | 2.38 | 2.03    |
| 11 Kermanshah    | 23                             | 1845           | 382                       | 4.57              | 3.78 | 3.07    |
| 12 Kurdistan     | 9                              | 410            | 121                       | 1.79              | .84  | .97     |
| Iran Total       | 503                            | 49800          | 12440                     |                   |      |         |
| 13 Al-Tameem     | 8                              | 710            | 81                        | 4.79              | 3.04 | 4.01    |
| 14 Dhek          | 5                              | 277            | 39                        | 2.99              | 1.18 | 1.93    |
| 15 Arbil         | 9                              | 833            | 67                        | 5.38              | 3.57 | 3.32    |
| 16 Al-Sulemaniya | 16                             | 804            | 69                        | 5.98              | 3.44 | 3.42    |
| Iraq Total       | 167                            | 23324          | 3017                      |                   |      |         |
| Kurdistan Total  | 128                            | 9244           | 1537                      |                   |      |         |

Table No. 11

## Land Use

| Description of land        | Area<br>in sq. km. | Percen-<br>tagee to<br>total land |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Forest                  | 910123             | 32                                |
| 2. Pasture and Mountainous | 796357             | 28                                |
| 3. Cultivable Fallow       | 455061             | 16                                |
| 4. Cultivated              | 682592             | 24                                |
| (1) Irrigated              | (398178)           | (14.4)                            |
| (11) Non-irrigated         | (284413)           | (9.6)                             |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>2844135</b>     | <b>100</b>                        |

Source: Collected from Annual Abstract of  
Statistic, Iraq, 1976,

Statistical Year Book of Turkey 1979  
and Ghossemleou A.R., Kurdistan and  
the Kurels (Prague 1965).

Table No. 12  
Use of Cultivable (Sown) Area  
in Iran and Kurdistan 1974

| Area in '000 Hect. | A-Area, B-Percentage |                       |                     |                       |                        |                       |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
|                    | Provinces            | Total Net sown        | Culti- vable waste  | Curre- nt fallow      | Dry Farming Fruit- ful | Non- fruit- ful       |
| 1. W. Azerbaijan   | 907<br>100           | 409<br>40.0           | 96<br>10.58         | 348<br>38.37          | 37<br>4.08             | 17 A<br>1.87 B        |
| 2. Kermanshah      | 1725<br>100          | 927<br>53.74          | 48<br>2.78          | 735<br>42.61          | 29<br>1.68             | 19 A<br>1.10 B        |
| 3. Kurdistan       | 1243<br>100          | 608<br>48.91          | 35<br>2.82          | 583<br>46.90          | 9<br>0.56              | 8 A<br>0.64 B         |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>3875<br/>100</b>  | <b>1944<br/>49.21</b> | <b>179<br/>5.35</b> | <b>1666<br/>42.96</b> | <b>75<br/>2.1</b>      | <b>44 A<br/>1.2 B</b> |

Source:- Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Tehran, 1974), Table 3, p.210.

Note:- Such a break down is not available in the case of Turkey and Iraqi part.

Table No.13  
Principal Crop

| Sl. No. | Province        | Bar-<br>ley    | Wheat           | Queen<br>Gram  | Millet        | Maize         | Rice          |        |
|---------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------|
| 1.      | Agri            | 9.56<br>59     | 10.05<br>130    | -<br>-         | 6.92<br>800   | 23.18<br>300  | -<br>-        | A<br>B |
| 2.      | Bingol          | 0.10<br>2      | 0.95<br>20      | -<br>-         | 68.53<br>1440 | 10.66<br>350  | 9.52<br>200   | A<br>B |
| 3.      | Bitlis          | 0.40<br>1      | 0.37<br>10      | -<br>-         | 78.43<br>2130 | 3.35<br>91    | 6.08<br>165   | A<br>B |
| 4.      | Diyarbakir      | 0.63<br>61     | 1.95<br>118     | -<br>-         | 15.56<br>1500 | 10.38<br>1000 | 51.88<br>5000 | A<br>B |
| 5.      | Hakkari         | -<br>-         | 0.58<br>2       | -<br>-         | 64.30<br>220  | 9.94<br>34    | 24.85<br>85   | A<br>B |
| 6.      | Nardin          | 4.50<br>77     | 4.85<br>83      | -<br>-         | -<br>-        | 14.51<br>250  | 20.46<br>350  | A<br>B |
| 7.      | Mus             | 0.32<br>8      | 1.70<br>43      | -<br>-         | -<br>-        | 41.48<br>1050 | -<br>-        | A<br>B |
| 8.      | Sirt            | 1.91<br>11     | 4.17<br>24      | -<br>-         | -<br>-        | -<br>-        | 24.31<br>140  | A<br>B |
| 9.      | Van             | 1.69<br>7      | 12.58<br>52     | -<br>-         | 48.37<br>200  | 10.88<br>48   | -<br>-        | A<br>B |
| 10.     | West Azerbaijan | 11.57<br>24000 | 65.44<br>150000 | 13.26<br>47212 | -<br>-        | -<br>-        | 0.26<br>2164  | A<br>B |
| 11.     | Kermanshah      | 11.96<br>40000 | 72.89<br>233000 | 12.93<br>93404 | -<br>-        | -<br>-        | 0.07<br>1993  | A<br>B |
| 12.     | Kurdistan       | 5.63<br>10000  | 85.33<br>130000 | 4.41<br>26507  | -<br>-        | -<br>-        | -<br>-        | A<br>B |
| 13.     | Al. Tammeh      | 21.10<br>26500 | 78.27<br>75800  | -<br>-         | 0.27<br>2671  | -<br>-        | 0.24<br>310   | A<br>B |
| 14.     | Dhok            | 9.98<br>3300   | 79.45<br>32400  | 0.14<br>37     | 0.33<br>299   | 2.05<br>4     | 1.62<br>2540  | A<br>B |
| 15.     | Arbil           | 20.70<br>29700 | 77.91<br>72600  | 0.03<br>0.20   | -<br>-        | 0.02<br>47    | 025<br>430    | A<br>B |
| 16.     | Al-Sulemaniya   | 26.66<br>35100 | 63.25<br>101200 | 0.03<br>25     | 0-12<br>492   | -<br>-        | 1.29<br>4920  | A<br>B |

Table No. 14  
 Provincialwise Distribution of Live-Stock 1974/76

A: Live Stock heads, B: Density per sq. kms.

| Sl. No.      | Province        | Area sq. kms. | Sheep             | Goats             | Poultry           |        |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------|
| 1.           | West Azarbaijan | 43660         | 1572938<br>(3602) | 691187<br>(1583)  | 367226<br>(841)   | A<br>B |
| 2.           | Kermanshah      | 62882         | 1863527<br>(2963) | 1474147<br>(2344) | 459224<br>(730)   | A<br>B |
| 3.           | Kurdistan       | 24998         | 1011359<br>(4045) | 571702<br>(2287)  | 219511<br>(874)   | A<br>B |
| 4.           | Al-Tameen       | 9426          | 520705<br>(5524)  | 151446<br>(1606)  | 481402<br>(5107)  | A<br>B |
| 5.           | D' hok          | 6374          | 141621<br>(2221)  | 250493<br>(3929)  | 109331<br>(1751)  | A<br>B |
| 6.           | Arbil           | 14428         | 291211<br>(2018)  | 287305<br>(1991)  | 1170960<br>(8115) | A<br>B |
| 7.           | Al-Sulemaniya   | 16482         | 556808<br>(3378)  | 511666<br>(3103)  | 430161<br>(2609)  | A<br>B |
| <b>Total</b> |                 | <b>178250</b> | <b>5958169</b>    | <b>3937936</b>    | <b>2946815</b>    |        |

Source: (i) National Census of Iran, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural resources, p.288.

(ii) Annual abstract of statistics, 1976, section 3, p.101

Note : Similar data break down for Iraqi and Turkish parts not available.



Table No. 15  
**Employes Engaged in different Occupation**  
**Iran and Iraq 1976**

A: Employes, B: Percentage

| Sl. No. | Employes in Industries |       | Trade and Private services | in services | Total |       |       |   |
|---------|------------------------|-------|----------------------------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|---|
|         | Large                  | Small |                            |             |       |       |       |   |
| 1.      | West Azerbaijan        |       | 4000                       | 7000        | 6000  | 17000 | A     |   |
|         |                        |       | 23.53                      | 41.18       | 32.29 | 100   | B     |   |
| 2.      | Kermansbah             |       | 58300                      | 15200       | 9000  | 82500 | A     |   |
|         |                        |       | 70.67                      | 18.42       | 10.91 | 100   | B     |   |
| 3.      | Kurdistan              |       | 1900                       | 3300        | 3000  | 8200  | A     |   |
|         |                        |       | 23.17                      | 40.24       | 36.59 | 100   | B     |   |
| 4.      | Al-Tameen              |       | 1953                       | 8580        | 6057  | 18383 | A     |   |
|         |                        |       | 12.69                      | 55.74       | 39.39 | 11.71 | 100   | B |
| 5.      | Dhok                   |       | 14                         | 683         | 1495  | 444   | 2636  | A |
|         |                        |       | 0.53                       | 25.91       | 56.71 | 16.84 | 100   | B |
| 6.      | Arbil                  |       | 5297                       | 4042        | 5123  | 1410  | 15873 | A |
|         |                        |       | 33.37                      | 25.47       | 32.28 | 8.88  | 100   | B |
| 7.      | Al-Sulemaniya          |       | 872                        | 1440        | 8886  | 2069  | 15686 | A |
|         |                        |       | 5.50                       | 26.09       | 56.00 | 13.03 | 100   | B |

Note:- Data similar to this break down for  
 Turkish part not available.

APPENDICES

## APPENDIX

THE TREATY OF SEVRES  
(10th August 1920)Section III (Articles 62-64)

## Article 62

A Commission, having its seat in Constantinople and made up of three members appointed by the Government of Britain, France and Italy, will, during the six months following the implementation of the present treaty, prepare for local autonomy in those regions where the Kurdish element is preponderant lying east of the Euphrates, to the south of a still-to-be established Armenian frontier and to the north of the frontier between Turkey, Syria and Mesopotamia, as established in Article 27 11 (2 and 3).

Should agreement on any question not be unanimous, the members of the Commission will refer it back to their respective Governments. The plan must provide complete guarantees as to the protection of the Assyto chaldeans and other ethnic or religious minorities in the area. To this end a commission made up of British, French, Italian, Persian and Kurdish representatives will visit the area so as to determine what adjustments, if any, should be made to the Turkish frontier wherever it coincides with the Persian frontier as laid down in this treaty.

## Article 63

The Ottoman Government agrees as of now to accept and execute the decisions of the two commissions envisaged in Article 62 within three months of being notified of those decisions.

## Article 64

If, after one year has elapsed since the implementation of the present treaty, the Kurdish population of the areas designated in Article 62 calls on the Council of the League of Nations and demonstrates that a majority of the population in these areas wishes to become independent of Turkey and if the Council then estimates that the population in question is capable of such independence and recommends that it be granted, then Turkey agrees, as of now, to comply with this recommendation and to renounce all rights and titles to the area. The details of this renunciation will be the subject of special convention between Turkey and the main Allied Powers.

If and when the said renunciation is made, no objection shall be raised by the main Allied powers should the Kurds living in that part of Kurdistan at present included in the Vilayet of Mosul seek to become citizens of the newly independent Kurdish state.

## THE MARCH MANIFESTO

Declaration of the Revolution Command Council  
on the Peaceful and Democratic Settlement of  
the Kurdish Question

(1) The Kurdish language shall, side by side with the Arabic language, be an official language in the areas populated by a majority of Kurds. The Kurdish language shall be the language of instruction in these areas. The Arabic language shall be taught in all schools where teaching is conducted in Kurdish. The Kurdish language shall be taught elsewhere in Iraq as a second language within the limits proscribed by the law.

(2) It has been one of the main concerns of the revolutionary government to secure participation by our Kurdish brothers in Government and eliminate any discrimination between Kurds and other nationals in regard to holding public offices including sensitive and important ones as cabinet ministries, army commands etc. While endorsing this principle, the revolutionary government stresses the need for endeavouring to have the principle achieved in fair proportions with due care to considerations of merits, the population ratio and the deprivations experienced by our Kurdish brothers in the past.

(3) In view of the backwardness experienced in the past

by the Kurdish nationality in the cultural and educational domains, a plan should be worked out for the treatment of this backwardness. This is to be achieved through.

(a) Implementing expeditiously the resolutions of the Revolution Command Council in regard to the language and cultural rights of the Kurdish people and tying up the preparation and direction of special programmes on Kurdish national affairs in the radio and TV network to the Directorate General of Kurdish Culture and Information.

(b) Reinstating students who were dismissed or had to leave school because of former conditions of violence in the area. These students should be allowed to return to their respective schools regardless of age limits or else have a convenient remedy suggested for their problem.

(c) Building more schools in the Kurdish area, elevating the standards of education and admitting, at a fair rate, Kurdish students to universities and military colleges and granting them scholarships.

(4) In the administrative units populated by a Kurdish majority, government officials shall be appointed from among Kurds or persons well versed in the Kurdish language as long as these are available. The principal Government functionaries - governor, district officer (Qaimuqam)

director of police, director of security etc. - shall be drawn from among the Kurds. Steps shall immediately be taken to develop state organs in the area in consultation within the framework of the High Committee supervising the implementation of this Manifesto in a manner ensuring its proper enforcement and consolidating national unity and stability.

(5) The Government recognizes the right of the Kurdish people to set up student, youth, women and teachers organizations of their own. These organizations shall be affiliated in the national counterparts in Iraq.

(6) (a) The validity of paras (1) and (2) of the Revolution Command Council's Decree No.59 dated August 5, 1968, shall be extended to the date of the issuance of this Manifesto. This shall cover all of those who took part in hostilities in the Kurdish area.

(B) Workers, government functionaries and employees, both civilian and military, shall go back to service without this being subject to cadre considerations. The civilian personnel shall be posted to the Kurdish area within the limits of its requirements.

(7) (a) A committee of specialists shall be formed to speed up the uplift of the Kurdish area in all respects and provide indemnities for the affliction of the past number of years, side by side with drawing up an adequate budget for all of

## VI

this. The committee in question shall be attached to the Ministry of Northern Affairs.

(b) The economic plan shall be drawn up in such a way as to ensure equal development for various parts of Iraq, with due attention to the backward conditions of the Kurdish area.

(c) Pension salaries shall be made available to the families of members of the Kurdish armed movement who met with martyrdom in the regrettable hostilities as well as to those rendered incapacitated or disfigures. This shall be regulated in a special legislation patterned on the existing laws of the land.

(d) Speedy action shall be taken to bring relief to aggrieved and needy persons by means of building housing units and other projects ensuring work to the unemployed offering appropriate aid both in kind and in cash and granting reasonable indemnities to aggrieved persons who stand in need for help. This shall be the responsibility of the High Committee, with the exception of those specified in the above paras.

(8) The inhabitants of Arab and Kurdish villages shall be repatriated to their places of habitation. As to villagers whose villages lie in areas requisitioned by the Government for public utility purposes in accordance with the provisions of the law, they shall be settled in neighbouring districts and shall be compensated for whatever loss they might have incurred as a result.



## VII

(9) Steps shall be taken to speed up the implementation of the Agrarian Reform Law in the Kurdish area and have the Law amended in such a way as to ensure the liquidation of all feudalistic relationship, handing over appropriate plots of land to all peasants and waiving for them agricultural tax arrears for the duration of the regrettable hostilities.

(10) It has been agreed to amend the Interim Constitution as follows:

(a) The people of Iraq are composed of two principal nationalities: the Arab nationality and the Kurdish nationality. This Constitution recognizes the national rights of the Kurdish people and the rights of all nationalities within the framework of the Iraqi unity.

(b) The following paragraph shall be added to Article (4) of the Constitution: "The Kurdish language shall be, beside the Arabic language, an official language in the Kurdish area.

(c) This all shall be confirmed in the permanent Constitution.

(11) The broadcasting station and the heavy arms shall be given back to the Government - this being tied up to the implementation of the final stages of the agreement.

## VIII

(12) One of the Vice-Presidents of the Republic shall be a Kurd.

(13) The Governorates Law shall be amended in a way conforming with the contents of this Manifesto.

(14) Following the issuance of the Manifesto, necessary steps shall be taken in consultation with the High Committee supervising its enforcement to unify the governorates and administrative units populated by a Kurdish majority as shown by the official census to be carried out. The State shall endeavour to develop this administrative unity and deepen and broaden the Kurdish people's process of exercising their national rights as a measure of ensuring self-rule. Pending the realization of administrative unit, Kurdish national affairs shall be coordinated by means of periodical meetings between the High Committee and the governors of the northern area. As self-rule is to be established within the framework of the Republic of Iraq, the exploitation of the natural riches in the area shall obviously be the prerogative of the authorities of the Republic.

(15) The Kurdish people shall contribute to the legislative power in proportion to their ratio of the population of Iraq.

**Kurdish Countrymen !**

These accomplishments achieved by the Revolution are

nothing more than a step up the ladder of attaining your national objectives in the shade of this beloved homeland and the unity of its great people. History will bear witness that you never had and never will have as dependable brothers and allies as the Arab people.

Masses of our great people !

It is your will for national unity which will triumph in the end. All attempts made to undermine your militant cohesion shall get smashed upon the rock of your maturity and your determination to live up to your historic responsibilities. Your struggling masses are today shaking off the dust of the intrigues spun by the enemies and greedy elements and are proceeding hand in hand vigorously and resolutely for backing up the major cause of the Arab nation, namely, Palestine, and for realizing your sublime objective in respect to unity, liberty and socialism.

Masses of our struggling Arab Nation !

A page of the history of this struggling country is thus folded out and a new bright one is opened by the Revolution and by all free militant strugglers of this homeland. On this beloved soil, the bonds of affection, peace and fraternity are rejuvenated between two nationalities that are held together by a long record of common struggle across history. Today, tomorrow and for ever, they shall have endless honour across history. Today, tomorrow and for ever they shall have the honour of reviving common

struggle for vanquishing the enemies of the two nationalities and the enemies of peoples and humanity in its entirety, namely, Zionism, imperialism and backwardness. They shall have the honour of joint contribution to backing up man's struggle for liberation and progress and for consolidating the civilization of the age on foundations of right, equality and justice among all peoples.

Forward for common struggle, common hopes and common nationalist and human victories.

The Revolution Command Council  
11/3/1970

AUTONOMY LAW  
 Law No. 33 of 1974  
 Autonomy For The Region Of Kurdistan

PART ONE  
 Fundamentals of Autonomy

Chapter One  
 Article One

(A) The Region of Kurdistan shall enjoy autonomy and be called "the Region" whenever it is mentioned hereinafter.

(B) The Region shall be so defined as to be populated by a majority of Kurds and the general census shall specify the demarcation of the Region in accordance with the provisions of March 11 Manifesto and the general census records of 1957 shall be the foundation for defining the national nature of the absolute population majority in the places where general census is to be conducted.

(C) The Region shall be considered an integral administrative unit enjoying a juridical personality and autonomy within the framework of the legal, political and economic integrity of the Republic of Iraq, and the administrative divisions therein shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Governorates' Law, with due consideration to the provisions of this Law.

(D) The Region is an integral part of the Iraqi territory and its people is an integral part of the Iraqi people.

(E) The city of Arbi shall be the Chief-Town for the administration of autonomy.

## XII

(F) The administrative organs of autonomy shall be part of the administrative organs in the Republic of Iraq.

### ARTICLE TWO:

(A) The Kurdish language shall be the official language, beside the Arabic language in the Region.

(B) The Kurdish language shall be the language of education for Kurds in the Region, and the teaching of Arabic shall be compulsory in all stages and institutions of education.

(C) Educational institutions shall be established in the Region for the Arabs, wherein education shall be in Arabic and the Kurdish language shall be taught in a compulsory manner.

(D) All citizens in the Region shall enjoy the option to join the schools for their education, regardless of their mother tongue.

(E) Education shall be subject, in all stages in the Region, to the general educational policy of the state.

### ARTICLE THREE :

(A) The rights and liberties of the Arabs and minorities in the Region shall be guaranteed in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, laws and resolutions

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promulgated in that connection, and the autonomy administration shall be bound to guarantee their exercise.

(B) Members of the Arab nationality and minorities in the Region shall be represented in all autonomous bodies, in proportion of their ratio to the population of the Region, and shall participate in assuming public civil service posts, in accordance with laws and regulations governing them.

#### ARTICLE FOUR :

Judicature shall be independent and void of any other control of the law and the legal formations in the Region shall constitute an integral part of the legal system in the Republic of Iraq.

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