

Apr 25, 1937: Born to impoverished farming family in Awja, **Sunni** Arab village near Tikrit. Father abandons family before his birth

1947: Flees from abusive stepfather to live with uncle

Jul 1952: Egypt's **Gamal Abdel Nasser** becomes political inspiration to young Saddam (above) after toppling his country's British-installed **King Faruk I**



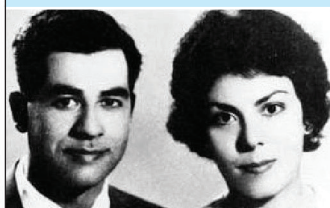
Jul 1957: Saddam joins uprising against British-backed **King Faisal II** of Iraq (left), and becomes militant in

pan-Arab, secular **Baath Party**

1958: Iraq's monarchy overthrown in coup led by **Brig. Abdul-Karim Qasim** and **Col Abdul-al-Salam Muhammad Arif**. Royal family murdered in orgy of bloodshed. Rise of Communist-backed Qasim threatens Western oil interests and Iraq's role in Cold War with Soviet Union

1959: Saddam wounded when United States-backed attempt to assassinate Qasim fails. Saddam flees to Syria, Lebanon and finally Egypt with help of America's CIA

1962: Marries his cousin **Sajida** (below) while in exile. Enrolls in Cairo law school – all expenses paid by U.S.



Feb 1963: Qasim killed in CIA-sponsored coup by Baath Party. Saddam – now head of **al-Jihaz al-Khas**, secret intelligence apparatus of Baath Party – presides over mass executions of suspected communists. Arif becomes president until his elder brother succeeds him in 1966

1964: Baath Party collapses. Saddam detained until his escape in 1967. While in prison Saddam is elected as **Deputy Secretary General** of Baath Party

Life and times of Saddam Hussein



Jul 1968: Leads revolt that restores Baaths to power. Saddam becomes power behind Iraqi President **Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr** (below right)



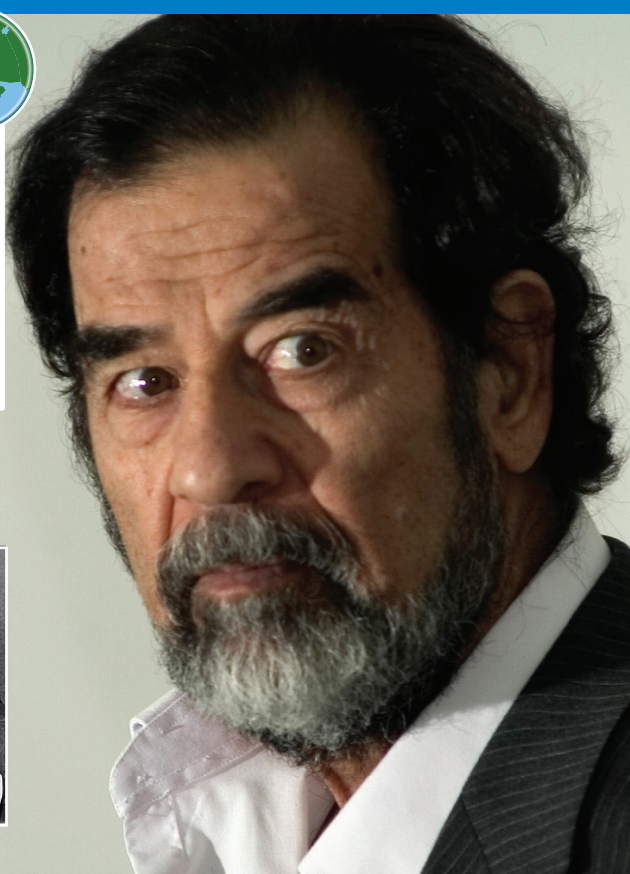
Jul 16, 1979: Saddam pushes Bakr aside to become head of state. Appoints many close family members to power

Sep 22, 1980: Iraqi troops invade Iran, where Islamic revolution has toppled U.S.-backed Shah. Saddam boasts he will be in Tehran within three days. Resulting war lasts eight years

1982: U.S. government removes Iraq from list of alleged sponsors of terrorism, enabling Saddam to buy American helicopters. Iraq rapidly becomes world's largest retail purchaser of arms with U.S. supplying up to \$1.5 billion worth of weapons by 1990



1983-84: President **Ronald Reagan** twice sends his Middle East envoy, **Donald Rumsfeld**, to Baghdad. Administration says defeat of Iraq is **"contrary to U.S. interests"**. During second visit, United Nations reports that Saddam is using mustard gas and Tabun nerve agent against Iranian soldiers



Mar 16, 1988: Saddam's forces accused of killing some 5,000 people in Kurdish town of Halabja by poison gas

Aug 20: UN-sponsored ceasefire agreed. Iraq left with war debts of \$30 billion to its former Arab backers, including \$14 billion loaned by Kuwait

Aug 1990: Iraq invades Kuwait over long-standing territorial dispute. Saddam accuses Kuwait of keeping oil prices low and violating Iraqi border to pump oil from disputed **Rumaila oil field**. UN Security Council imposes sanctions on Baghdad

Feb 1991: U.S.-led international alliance drives Saddam's army out of Kuwait

Mar: Saddam uses his Republican Guard to ruthlessly crush rebellion by **Shiites** in southern Iraq and **Kurds** in north. Tens of thousands of civilians are killed

Apr: Iraq accepts terms of UN Security Council resolution 687, which demands dismantling of **weapons of mass destruction (WMD)** and payment of war reparations. Disputes over compliance lead to successive crises and keep sanctions in place for years

1997: CIA reports that Iraqi armies have shrunk by half since 1991

Jan 30, 2002: President **George W. Bush** brands Iraq, along with Iran and North Korea, part of an **"axis of evil"** armed with WMD and supporting terrorism

Mar 20, 2003: U.S. and Britain invade Iraq, claiming Saddam has failed to comply with UN demands to get rid of WMD. No evidence is later found of such weapons



Apr 9: U.S. forces sweep into Baghdad to ecstatic welcome. Saddam's 24-year rule crumbles into chaos

Jul 22: Saddam's two sons, **Uday** and **Qusay**, killed by U.S. forces in Mosul

Dec 14: Saddam captured in hiding hole near Tikrit

Jul 2004: Former president told he faces seven charges

Oct 19, 2005: Saddam goes on trial, charged with crimes against humanity for killing of 148 Shiite men after 1982 assassination attempt against him in town of Dujail. Pleads not guilty

Nov 5, 2006: Found guilty in Dujail trial. Sentenced to death by hanging

Dec 3: Lawyers lodge appeal against death sentence

Dec 27: Appeal fails. Appellate court rules Saddam to be executed within 30 days

