

Iraq's Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr



■ **1973:** Born son of **Muhammad Sadiq al-Sadr** – senior Shia cleric allegedly assassinated in 1999 for defying **Saddam Hussein**

■ **2003:** **Moqtada al-Sadr** emerges as Islamist leader after U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, with strong support in poor Shia suburbs of Baghdad

■ **2004:** Leads his **Mehdi Army** militia group in two abortive uprisings against U.S. occupation



■ **2005:** Followers of Sadr stand for parliament as part of **United Iraqi Alliance** bloc of Shia political groups

■ **2008:** Mehdi Army crushed by Iraqi and U.S. forces – Sadr flees to Iran to escape arrest warrant after suspending activities of his fighters

■ **2011:** Returns to Iraq after his political movement secures deal to join government of **Nuri al-Maliki** (right)



■ **2014:** Revives Mehdi Army under new name of **Peace Brigades** to fight so-called Islamic State group. Pledges support to new Prime Minister **Haider al-Abadi** (left)

■ **2016:** Sadr re-enters Iraqi politics, calling on Abadi to reform government and absorb Shiite militias, including Peace Brigades, into Iraqi army

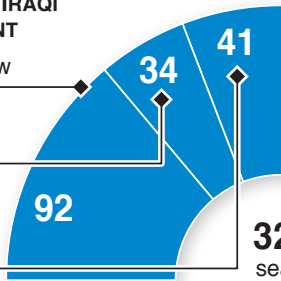
■ **2018:** Sadr allies with Communists and other secular reformers to contest national elections in May

OUTGOING IRAQI PARLIAMENT

State of Law

Sadrist Movement

Other Shiite parties



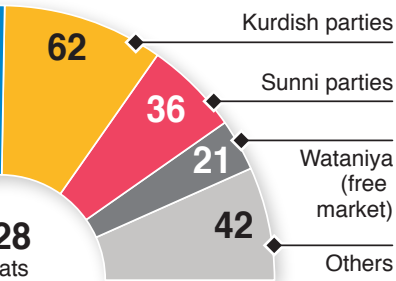
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Kurdish parties

Sunni parties

Wataniya (free market)

Others



328 seats