

Shiite Political Groups in Post-Hussein Iraq

| | MAIN RIVALS | | EMERGENT POWERS | | MARGINALS | | |
|--------------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| Name | Sistani | Sadr | SCIRI | Da'wa | Faili | Secularists | Exiles ¹ |
| Backers | Establishment | Poor | Iran | Possibly Iran | Iran | Middle class | US, Britain |
| Constituency | Iraqi/Iranian | Mostly Iraqi | Iraqi/Iranian | Iraqi/Iranian | Kurdish | Iraqi/Iranian | Iraqi/Iranian |
| Leader | Ali Sistani | Muqtada al Sadr | Muhammad al Hakim Abdulaziz al Hakim | Muhammad al Nasri Ibrahim al Jaafari | | | Abdelmajid al Khoei |
| Cities currently under control | Najaf | Sadr City (Baghdad) Najaf Kufa | Kut Baquba | Nasiriyya | Badra | Basra | None |
| Ideology | vs Khomeinism | vs Khomeinism | pro-Khamenei | pro-al-Sadr | vs Khomeinism | vs Khomeinism | vs Khomeinism |
| Islamic State | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Unknown | No | Unknown |
| Armed | No | Yes | Yes: Badr Brigade | No | Yes | No | Unknown |
| Recent headlines | 8 April encouraged cooperation with US troops, but organized 21 April anti-US rally in Baghdad following US arrest of al Fartusi, a Sistani ally | 10 April organized mob attacks on Khoei (killed), Sistani, and al Hakim's nephew in Karbala | 18 April called for the march to Karbala to assert influence and equate the American presence with Hussein's | Organized 15 April protest in Nasiriyya against US sponsored meeting | | | Khoei killed by mobs in mosque after US troops bring him back from exile |
| Notes | <p>Critical of US long term plans, demanding that freedom of speech is not democracy without self determination and self rule</p> <p>Threatened by populism and authoritarianism of the Sadr movement</p> <p>Represents the 'mainstream' Usuli voice of Iraqi Shiites, drawing support from tribes and urban centers</p> | <p>Favor an Islamic Republic but without Iranian Influence</p> <p>Critical of Iranian-born clerics like Sistani</p> <p>Draws support from the slums and poorest who suffered under Baathists, where Sadr is idolized</p> <p>Lacks clerical legitimacy due to Sadr's young age and unorthodox rejection of Usuli tradition</p> | <p>The Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq is an offshoot from al Da'wa party</p> <p>Courted by neoconservatives to purportedly fight along the invading forces</p> <p>Represented in INC with 15 of 65 seats, until Cheney and Khalilzad worked to dilute their influence</p> <p>January 2003 US abandons relations which alienates them and begin opposition to Chalabi and US</p> | <p>Afraid of paramilitaries of SCIRI and Sadr</p> <p>Relations with Tehran, Iraq, London and Fadlallah of Lebanon</p> <p>London affiliate maintains contact with American administration</p> <p>19 April al Jaafari calls for a provisional technocratic government to ensure initial continuity of secular politics and weakening of clerical rule</p> | <p>Based in Iran</p> <p>Not clear is their relationship with the Sunni Kurds, PDK and PUK</p> <p>Active in remote rural areas and not in the cities</p> | <p>Resist all the other Shiite movements, especially militant ones</p> <p>Active only in Basra, which is under British control and where anti-Americanism is relatively limited</p> <p>Come from a secular, Arabist tradition and are opposed to the rise of an Islamic Republic</p> | |
| Attitude towards US | Conditional cooperation, principled resistance | Popular resistance, potential for armed struggle high | Popular resistance, potential for armed struggle high | Political resistance | No contact with US | No contact with US | US sponsored |
| Source | Juan Cole, 'Shiite Religious Parties Fill Vacuum in Southern Iraq', 22 April 2003, Middle East Report Online, http://www.merip.org/mero/meroo42203.html | | | | | | ¹ Excludes Ahmad Chalabi |