

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910698535303321
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Titolo	Turkey and Iraq [[electronic resource]] : the perils (and prospects) of proximity / / by Henri J. Barkey
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, DC (1200 17th Street NW) : , : U.S. Institute of Peace, , [2005]
Descrizione fisica	23 pages : digital, PDF file
Collana	Special report ; ; no. 141
Soggetti	Kurds - Turkey Kurds - Iraq Iraq War, 2003-2011 - Kurds Turkey Foreign relations Iraq
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from title screen (viewed July 25, 2005). "July 2005."
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Sommario/riassunto	Throughout the 1990s, Turkey was the anchor in the containment of Saddam Hussein's Iraq by the United States. The unpredictable set of events unleashed by Operation Iraqi Freedom has unnerved both Turkish decision makers and the public alike. The U.S.-led coalition's operation in Iraq has also upended Turkey's fundamental interests in Iraq, which are fourfold: (1) Prevent the division of Iraq along sectarian or ethnic lines that would give rise to an independent or confederal Kurdish state (with the oil-rich city of Kirkuk as its capital), thus supporting aspiratins for a similar entity in Turkey's own extensive Kurdish population. (2) Protect Turkish-speaking Turkmen minority, which resides primarily in northern Iraq. (3) Eliminate the Kurdistan Workers' Party, the Turkish Kurdish insurgent movement, which has sought refuge in the northeast of Iraq following its defeat in 1999. (4) Prevent the emergence of a potentially hostile nondemocratic fundamentalist Iraqi state.