Scientific Translation Date: 02, March, 2020

Fourth Stage – Morning Classes Time: 11:30 & 12:15 Lecturer: Farah A. Abo Al-Timen

Climate change in Iraq

In Iraq, climate change has resulted in "prolonged heat waves, erratic precipitation, higher than average temperatures and increased disaster intensity,” according to a 2018 report by the Expert Working Group on Climate-related Security Risk.

Baghdad is experiencing an earlier onset of 48C days. In 2019, air conditioning has become unaffordable or impossible to maintain for lower income residents, due to erratic electricity supplies.

Drought and Erratic Precipitation

Drought between 2007 and 2009 was followed by very heavy rains which contributed to flooding and soil loss.

Iraq's years of drought became especially acute in 2018, at which time its land under cultivation was reduced by half. Cultivation of irrigated crops such as rice, corn and other cereals was suspended by the government; losses in rice production were estimated at 39 million dollars.

In 2019, an unusually wet winter "restored freshwater marshes of southern Iraq," and also caused widespread flooding on the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

Water Supply

As water levels fall, increasing salinity of the water supply has become a concern in southern Iraq, especially in Basra.

Security Risks of Climate Change

When agricultural livelihoods are disrupted, local residents in ISIS-liberated areas may become dependent on terrorist groups for access to resources.