

2.10 Iraq

Libraries and Librarianship in Iraqi Kurdistan

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Introduction



Figure 1: Flag of Kurdistan

The Kurdistan Region of Iraq is an autonomous region in federal Iraq. It borders Syria to the west, Iran to the east and Turkey to the north, where the fertile plains meet the Zagros Mountains, while the rivers of the Tigris, Great Zab, and Little Zab traverse the region, an area of 40,643 square kilometers. Its population is 3,757,058 persons whose languages include Kurdish, Turkmen, and Arabic, with Armenian and Assyrian found in other areas. Administration of this region falls under the Kurdistan Regional Government (hereafter referred to as KRG).¹



Figure 2: Kurdistan Regional Government emblem

¹ A standard textbook for the history and current situation of the Kurds can be found in David McDowell, *A Modern History of the Kurds* (London: I.B. Tauris, 2004).