

MUQTADA AL-SADR

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THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Muqtada Al-Sadr is an Iraqi religious and political leader. He is also a militia commander and is head of the Mahdi Army. He is strongly opposed to America's presence in his country but has stuck to a 2005 truce, which has seen levels of violence decrease. Sadr is currently studying to be an ayatollah and is still very popular with millions of Iraqis.

Sadr is the fourth son of the late Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Sadeq Al-Sadr, a famous Shi'a cleric. As a child, Muqtada attended a religious seminary but did not finish his education. After his father's assassination, he took over the charity and social work his father had controlled. He immediately became very popular with his Shi'a followers.

In 2003, the US-led coalition set up the Coalition Provisional Authority and Iraqi Governing Council (IGC). Sadr decided to enter the political stage. He stated that he had more right to govern Iraq than the IGC. He formed his own shadow government. Since 2003, his Mahdi army has provided many important social services to the people of Sadr City in Baghdad.

In 2004, Sadr's Mahdi Army demonstrated against the closure of Sadr's newspaper and took over several key positions in Baghdad. After calling a truce, he told his soldiers to "do their duty" and go home. He boycotted the 2005 Iraqi election, saying it was a fraud. In 2007, Sadr went into exile in Iran. He continues to tell Iraqi soldiers and police not to work with American forces.

249 words
Flesch Kinkaid 10.4

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the words from the article on the left with their synonyms on the right. Are your answers the same as other students'?

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. strongly | a. reduce |
| 2. truce | b. school |
| 3. decrease | c. cease-fire |
| 4. famous | d. passionately |
| 5. seminary | e. murder |
| 6. assassination | f. well known |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 7. coalition | g. a great deal of |
| 8. govern | h. protested |
| 9. many | i. alliance |
| 10. demonstrated | j. sham |
| 11. several | k. rule over |
| 12. fraud | l. a number of |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. an Iraqi religious and | a. than the IGC |
| 2. He is strongly opposed to America's | b. seminary |
| 3. Sadr is currently studying | c. positions in Baghdad |
| 4. Muqtada attended a religious | d. the political stage |
| 5. He immediately became very popular | e. political leader |
| 6. Sadr decided to enter | f. saying it was a fraud |
| 7. he had more right to govern Iraq | g. to be an ayatollah |
| 8. He formed his own | h. with his Shi'a followers |
| 9. took over several key | i. shadow government |
| 10. He boycotted the 2005 Iraqi election, | j. presence in his country |

LISTENING GAP FILL:

Muqtada Al-Sadr is an _____ and political leader. He is also a _____ and is head of the Mahdi Army. He is strongly opposed to America's _____ country but has stuck to a 2005 truce, which has seen levels of violence decrease. Sadr is _____ to be an ayatollah and is still very popular with millions of Iraqis.

Sadr is _____ the late Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Sadeq Al-Sadr, a famous Shi'a cleric. As a child, Muqtada _____ seminary but did not finish his education. After his father's assassination, he took _____ and social work his father had controlled. He immediately became very popular with his _____.

In 2003, the _____ set up the Coalition Provisional Authority and Iraqi Governing Council (IGC). Sadr decided to enter the _____. He stated that he had more _____ Iraq than the IGC. He formed his own shadow government. Since 2003, his Mahdi army has provided many important _____ to the people of Sadr City in Baghdad.

In 2004, Sadr's Mahdi Army demonstrated _____ of Sadr's newspaper and took over several _____ Baghdad. After calling a truce, he told his soldiers to "do their duty" and go home. He _____ Iraqi election, saying it was a fraud. In 2007, Sadr went into exile in Iran. He continues to tell Iraqi soldiers and police _____ American forces.

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD:

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs in italics.

Muqtada Al-Sadr is an Iraqi *religion / religious* and political leader. He is also a militia commander and is head of the Mahdi Army. He is strongly *opposed / opposition* to America's presence in his country but has stuck *for / to* a 2005 truce, which has seen levels of violence decrease. Sadr is currently studying to be an ayatollah and is still very popular *with / by* millions of Iraqis.

Sadr is the fourth son of the *late / lately* Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Sadeq Al-Sadr, a *fame / famous* Shi'a cleric. As a child, Muqtada attended a religious seminary but did not finish *his educated / education*. After his father's assassination, he took over the charity and social work his father had controlled. He immediately became very *popularity / popular* with his Shi'a followers.

In 2003, the US-led coalition set *in / up* the Coalition Provisional Authority and Iraqi Governing Council (IGC). Sadr *decision / decided* to enter the political stage. He *stated / started* that he had more right to govern Iraq than the IGC. He formed his own *shadow / shadowy* government. Since 2003, his Mahdi army has provided many important social services to the people of Sadr City in Baghdad.

In 2004, Sadr's Mahdi Army demonstrated against the *closed / closure* of Sadr's newspaper and took *under / over* several key positions in Baghdad. After calling a truce, he told his soldiers to "*make / do* their duty" and go home. He boycotted the 2005 Iraqi election, saying it was a fraud. In 2007, Sadr went *into / up* exile in Iran. He continues to tell Iraqi soldiers and police not to work with American forces.

SPELLING:

These jumbled words are from the text. Spell them correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. an Iraqi religious and itaiolclp leader
2. strongly poodsep to America's presence
3. ... which has seen levels of oneelvic decrease
4. popular with ioslnilm of Iraqis

Paragraph 2

5. Muqtada taenedtd a religious seminary
6. finish his cueitdano
7. hcytrai and social work
8. his Shi'a oefolwrsi

Paragraph 3

9. the US-led caotiolni
10. the political sgtea
11. more right to rgveno Iraq
12. edivrpdo many important social services

Paragraph 4

13. the eurscl of Sadr's newspaper
14. took over evasrel key positions
15. He oytteocbd the 2005 Iraqi election
16. Sadr went into xeile in Iran

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- (**1**) Muqtada Al-Sadr is an Iraqi religious and political leader. He is also a militia commander and is head
- () truce, which has seen levels of violence decrease. Sadr is currently studying
- () In 2004, Sadr's Mahdi Army demonstrated against the closure of Sadr's newspaper and took over several key
- () many important social services to the people of Sadr City in Baghdad.
- () of the Mahdi army. He is strongly opposed to America's presence in his country but has stuck to a 2005
- () child, Muqtada attended a religious seminary but did not finish his education. After his father's assassination, he took
- () to enter the political stage. He stated that he had more right to govern Iraq
- () Sadr is the fourth son of the late Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Sadeq Al-Sadr, a famous Shi'a cleric. As a
- () than the IGC. He formed his own shadow government. Since 2003, his Mahdi army has provided
- () over the charity and social work his father had controlled. He immediately became very popular with his Shi'a followers.
- () to be an ayatollah and is still very popular with millions of Iraqis.
- () exile in Iran. He continues to tell Iraqi soldiers and police not to work with American forces.
- () the 2005 Iraqi election, saying it was a fraud. In 2007, Sadr went into
- () positions in Baghdad. After calling a truce, he told his soldiers to "do their duty" and go home. He boycotted
- () In 2003, the US-led coalition set up the Coalition Provisional Authority and Iraqi Governing Council (IGC). Sadr decided

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With your partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. political and religious Iraqi an is Sadr leader

2. an be to studying currently is Sadr ayatollah

3. Iraqis of millions with popular very

4. is son late Sadr fourth the Ayatollah the of Grand

5. seminary Muqtada As attended a a child religious ,

6. stage decided enter political Sadr to the

7. he right Iraq IGC more govern the had to than

8. He government shadow own his formed

9. boycotted He election Iraqi 2005 the

10. in exile into went Sadr Iran

MUQTADA AL-SADR DISCUSSION:

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What do you know about Muqtada Al-Sadr?
2. Would you like to meet Muqtada Al-Sadr?
3. What would you like to know about Muqtada Al-Sadr and why?
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

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MUQTADA AL-SADR DISCUSSION:

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. What did you learn from this text about Muqtada Al-Sadr?
2. What questions would you like to ask Muqtada Al-Sadr?
3. What would his answers be to those questions?
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

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MUQTADA AL-SADR SURVEY:

Write five questions about Muqtada Al-Sadr in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about Muqtada Al-Sadr. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MUQTADA AL-SADR POSTER: Make a poster showing the different stages of the life of Muqtada Al-Sadr. Show your poster to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all find out similar things?

4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about Muqtada Al-Sadr. Include an imaginary interview with him. Write about what he does every day and what he thinks about.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to Muqtada Al-Sadr. Ask him three questions about his life. Give him three suggestions on what he should do in his future. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your "Muqtada Al-Sadr expert" partner(s) will try and answer your questions.

ANSWERS

SYNONYM MATCH:

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. strongly | a. passionately |
| 2. truce | b. cease-fire |
| 3. decrease | c. reduce |
| 4. famous | d. well known |
| 5. seminary | e. school |
| 6. assassination | f. murder |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

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| 7. coalition | g. alliance |
| 8. govern | h. rule over |
| 9. many | i. a great deal of |
| 10. demonstrated | j. protested |
| 11. several | k. a number of |
| 12. fraud | l. sham |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. an Iraqi religious and | a. political leader |
| 2. He is strongly opposed to America's | b. presence in his country |
| 3. Sadr is currently studying | c. to be an ayatollah |
| 4. Muqtada attended a religious | d. seminary |
| 5. He immediately became very popular | e. with his Shi'a followers |
| 6. Sadr decided to enter | f. the political stage |
| 7. he had more right to govern Iraq | g. than the IGC |
| 8. He formed his own | h. shadow government |
| 9. took over several key | i. positions in Baghdad |
| 10. He boycotted the 2005 Iraqi election, | j. saying it was a fraud |

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Look at the text on page 2.