

# The Nationalist and Brigadier General in the Iraqi Army Who Took Power in 1958

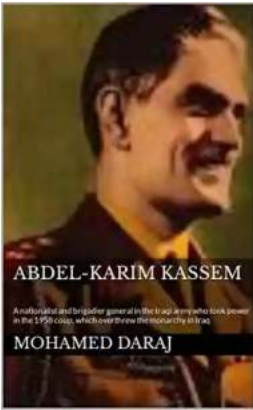
In the tumultuous political landscape of the Middle East during the mid-20th century, one figure stood out prominently and left an indelible mark on Iraqi history. A nationalist and brigadier general in the Iraqi Army, whose name became synonymous with the dramatic events of 1958, reshaped the political future of Iraq and led the country through a transformative period. This article delves into the life, achievements, and legacy of this influential leader and the significant impact he had on Iraq and the surrounding region.

## Background and Early Life

Born in 1912 in Tikrit, a town situated north of Baghdad, our protagonist belonged to a humble family. From an early age, the young brigadier general showed exceptional leadership qualities and an unwavering dedication to his country. He joined the Iraqi Army and rapidly rose through the ranks due to his strategic prowess and commitment to defending Iraqi interests. His unwavering loyalty to Iraq and its people laid the groundwork for his political career in the following years.

## Assumption of Power

The year 1958 proved pivotal in Iraqi history. Widespread discontent and frustration among the populace led to a series of protests and uprisings against the ruling monarchy. This unrest provided the perfect platform for our brigadier general to make his move. Leading a group of officers, he swiftly orchestrated a coup d'état that successfully ousted the monarchy, and he assumed the role of the new Prime Minister of Iraq.



## Abdel-Karim Kassem: A nationalist and brigadier general in the Iraqi army who took power in the 1958 coup, which overthrew the monarchy in Iraq

by Fred Botham (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1196 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 27 pages  
Lending : Enabled



### Political Reforms and Vision for Iraq

As Prime Minister, our nationalist leader wasted no time implementing a series of far-reaching political and social reforms. With a strong belief in Arab nationalism, he sought to diminish foreign influence in Iraq and consolidate power in the hands of its own people. His policies aimed at empowering the country's working class, fostering economic growth, nationalizing key industries, and redistributing land to peasants.

Additionally, our brigadier general focused on building a strong military capable of protecting Iraq's sovereign interests and promoting stability in the region. He invested heavily in modernizing the armed forces and establishing a national defense infrastructure. Under his leadership, the Iraqi Army became a formidable fighting force, garnering respect both domestically and abroad.

### Controversies and Challenges

Despite his ambitious reforms and strong leadership, our protagonist faced several obstacles and controversies during his tenure. As a staunch nationalist, he clashed with powerful internal factions and faced opposition from certain regional powers who viewed his policies as a threat to their interests. Internal divisions among political groups and differing ideologies contributed to a challenging political environment that threatened stability.

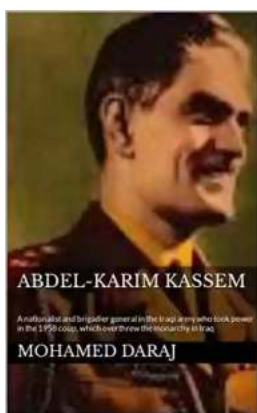
Furthermore, the broader geopolitical landscape of the Middle East added another layer of complexity to his rule. Strained relations with neighboring countries and ongoing regional conflicts necessitated navigating treacherous diplomatic waters. Balancing the interests of Iraq while fostering regional cooperation proved to be a delicate and demanding task.

## **Legacy and Impact**

Though his time in power was relatively short-lived, the nationalist brigadier general's influence on Iraqi political, economic, and military spheres cannot be overstated. His visionary leadership and commitment to bettering the lives of Iraqi citizens left an enduring impact that persists to this day, shaping the country's identity and collective memory. The reforms he implemented formed the foundation for subsequent governments and laid the groundwork for future democratic processes in Iraq.

Moreover, his focus on Arab nationalism and regional stability set a precedent for future leaders and shaped Iraq's role in the wider Middle East. The resilience and dedication he displayed during times of adversity inspire a sense of nationalism and pride among Iraqis, serving as a reminder of the potential for change in challenging circumstances.

The nationalist brigadier general who took power in the Iraqi Army in 1958 left a lasting imprint on Iraqi history. His transformative leadership, political reforms, and unwavering commitment to Iraq's interests continue to resonate today. Despite the challenges he faced during his time in power, his vision for a strong, independent Iraq fueled the progress and development of the nation. His legacy serves as a testament to the profound impact an individual can have on shaping the destiny of a nation.



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Abd al-Karim Qasim (born November 21, 1914 - died February 9, 1963), was a nationalist and brigadier general in the Iraqi army who took power in the 1958 coup that overthrew the monarchy in Iraq. He ruled the country as prime minister until his downfall and death during the 1963 Ramadan Revolution.

He was a member of the National Officers Organisation, or Al-Ahrar, and was nominated in 1957 as Chairman of the Higher Committee for the Organization, which was founded by Colonel Rifaat Al-Hajj Seri, nicknamed Al-Din, in 1949.

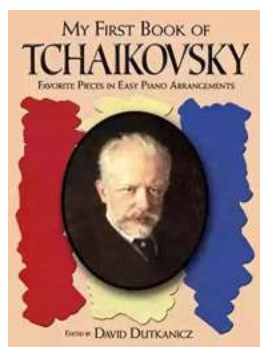
Together with the leaders of the organization, he participated in planning the movement or revolution of July 14, 1958, which was carried out by his colleague in the organization, Abd al-Salam Muhammad Aref, which ended the monarchy and declared the establishment of the Iraqi Republic. He is an Iraqi soldier who was known for his patriotism and love for the poor classes to which he belonged. One of the most controversial figures who ruled Iraq, as he was known for not allowing others to contribute with him to rule, and he was accused by his political opponents of excluding the rule, as he was called by those close to him and in the media "the only leader".

He ruled Iraq for 4 years, 6 months and 15 days. He was executed without investigation and through an urgent moot court in the Broadcasting House in Baghdad on February 9, 1963.



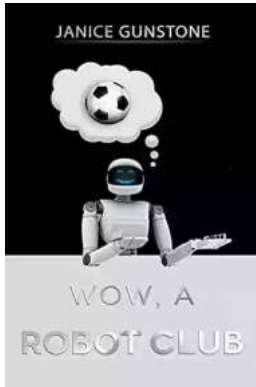
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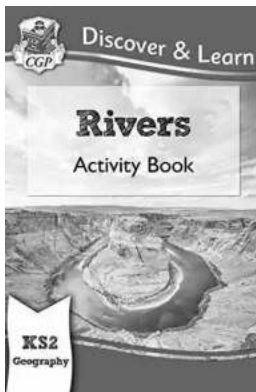
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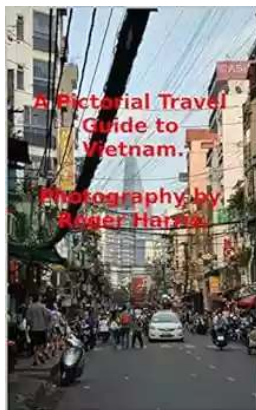
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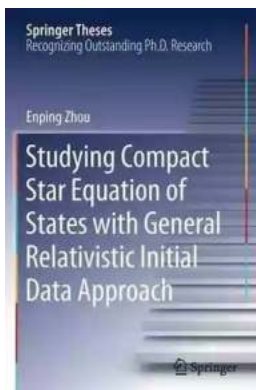
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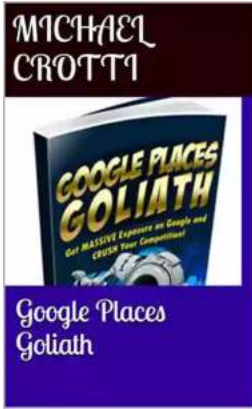
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