

How did Saddam Hussein go from being vice president (1968) to president (1979)?

CREATE A POWER BASE

BUILD A REPUTATION - He was a long standing and active member of the Ba'ath Party, promoted Arab Nationalism, played a key role in the coup of '68 bringing the Ba'ath party to power in Iraq.

POSITIONS OF POWER - 1968 he was VP, he was in charge of all internal security forces, he was VC of the Ba'ath Party RCC (Revolutionary Command Council, and a General by 1976.

NEPOTISM - as VP he placed family and relatives into key government/ military positions.

BUILD POPULARITY - After nationalising Iraq's oil industry he used the vast wealth to invest in Iraq's infrastructure.

GET SUPPORT OF THE ARMY - Vital to avoid a coup! He ensured he provided the military with modern equipment.

ELIMINATE RIVALS - Any potential opposition could be expelled from the Ba'ath party, or purged by being placed on charges of espionage- as 80 were in 1969!

Focus on the Ba'ath Party

His leading role in the Ba'ath party (he joined aged 20) was crucial - especially as the party came to control many aspects of everyday life from schools, trade unions and even sports clubs.

Oil wealth - was essential to his rise and popularity. By nationalising oil from Britain, he not only improved his reputation as an Arab Nationalist, but saw Iraq's oil revenue increase from \$575 million in 1972 to \$26,500 million by 1980.



How Saddam used the oil revenue to win popularity:

'Universal free schooling.' 'Increased the literacy rate.' 'Free hospital treatment for everyone.' 'Modernised the public health system.' 'Gave subsidies to farmers.' 'Modernised farming with the introduction of mechanisation.' 'Introduced welfare programmes for the Iraqi

The final step... 1979

By 1977 Al Bakr was in reality little more than a figurehead - Saddam held huge power and influence and was the obvious choice to replace his ailing cousin, Al Bakr, as President as he had military, political and popular support.....

Fear, repression and a **POLICE** state: even before he became President, the mechanisms of a police state were firmly in place. A secret police, repressive measures such as imprisonment, torture and even rape created a culture of fear. Saddam kept a tight grip over this as he promoted Sunni Muslims to these positions.



How did Saddam Hussein come to power in Iraq?