**The area and location of IRAQ**

The area of Iraq is about 439 thousand sq km. It extending between the latitudes 28 59 and 37 20 north, and the longitudes 38 46 and 56 40 east. Iraq is separated from other neighboring countries by natural and political boundaries. In the north, it is surrounded from turkey by Taurus Mountains with border about 350 km. from the east by zagros mountains of Iran with border about 1235 km. its boundary from south, south west, and west, which is geometrical in character, conforms with Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Syria respectively, with border about 200, 948, 148, 618,km.

 In the south lies Arabian Gulf, which gives a coastal area of about 60 km. in length. The location of Iraq has played a major role in the history of mankind, particularly in the fields of commerce and trade routes and agriculture as Mesopotamia.

 Its ancient civilization, manpower resources and its economic potentialities provided by its fertile land and abundant water bodies, gave it a prime position in the countries of the world and punctuated as a country of two big rivers, Euphrates and Tigris.