**THE CLIMATE OF IRAQ**

Climate of Iraq has often been described as continental. The climate characterized with drought, high radiation of sun, and high annual and diurnal rang of temperature. The climate varies among the parts of Iraq due to several factors, such as topographic features, astronomical location, and special location. Therefore there are three main climatic regions in Iraq.

**Climatic regions:-**

The climatic regions of Iraq broadly correspond to the physiographic divisions and on the basis of temperature and precipitation. The country can be divided into three climatic regions:-

1. **Mediterranean sea climate region:-**

This region is characterized by its height which varies from 2500-4000 feet above sea level, and contains an area of about 12% of the total area of Iraq. Winters are cold with snowfalls, and summers are dry and the temperature is moderate. Rainfall is heavy and reaches as high as 1000 mm.

1. **The transitional region:-**

It located between the humid region in the north and dry region in the south. It occupies an area of 18% of the total area of Iraq. It characterized by a moderate winter where the temperature doesn’t fall below -5c. snowfall is rare and the region is corresponds to the sub-mountains region receiving rainfall more than 300 mm, annually, with an increase in the relative humidity reaches to 40%.

1. **Desert and semi-desert region:-**

This region covers the greater part of the west, central, and south Iraq, about 70% of the total area of Iraq. This area is characterized by warm winters. During some years, temperature might fall in this region below 0c owing to continental cold winds from the north or north east. The annual rainfall in this area is very little and doesn’t exceed 200mm. the summers are dry and hot.