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From Dictatorship to Democracy: An Insider's Account of the Iraqi Opposition to Saddam. In this Book. Additional Information. An important Iraqi diplomat and member of Iraq's majority Shia community, he offers firsthand accounts of the meetings and discussions he and other Iraqi opponents to Saddam held with American and British diplomats from 1991 to 2004. Drawn from al-Bayati's personal archives of meeting minutes and correspondence, From Dictatorship to Democracy takes readers through the history of the opposition. We learn the views and actions of principal figures, such as SCIRI head Sayyid Mohammed Baqir Al-Hakeem and the other leaders of the Iraqi National Congress, Ahmed Chalabi and his Kurdish counterparts, From Dictatorship to Democracy: An Insider's Account of the Iraqi Opposition to Saddam. By Hamid al-Bayati and Peter W. Galbraith. Book Actions. Today, Hamid al-Bayati serves as Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations. But for many years he lived in exile in London, where he worked with other opponents of Saddam Hussein's regime to make a democratic and pluralistic Iraq a reality. As former Western spokesman for the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), and as a member of the executive council of the Iraqi National Congress, two of the main groups opposing Saddam's regime, he led campaigns to alert the world to human rights violations in Iraq and win support from the international community for the removal of. Sadd... From Dictatorship to Democracy : An Insider's Account of the Iraqi Opposition to Saddam. Iraqi UN Ambassador and former opposition leader Hamid al-Bayati provides first-hand information on the meetings and discussions that led the United States and United Kingdom to move from inaction to the invasion and occupation of Iraq. Saved in: Bibliographic Details. 1. 0. |a From Dictatorship to Democracy : |b An Insider's Account of the Iraqi Opposition to Saddam. 264. 1. |a Philadelphia : |b University of Pennsylvania Press, |c 2011. 264. 4. The Iraqi opposition wanted Saddam's immediate ouster. Its leaders advocated that the United States shake the foundations of Saddam's regime through: the creation of a safe-haven in southern Iraq; more arms and funding for the Iraqi opposition; the prosecution of Saddam and his henchmen in an international tribunal; and a more robust effort to promote human rights and democracy in Iraq. The United States by contrast was focused on the more modest goal of containing Saddam's regime. Bayati's firsthand account of how the Iraqi people celebrated the return of opposition figures offers evidence to the contrary. Yet From Dictatorship to Democracy is disappointing in that it does not grapple sufficiently with the shortcomings of the Iraqi opposition and its leaders.