

المرحلة الثانية

النص 1

الجزء 2

Geography of Iraq

The Physical Region:

Despite of its comparatively small area, Iraq has great physical variation, ranging from mountains in the North down through the alluvial plains to a plateau in the West.

Physiographically, Iraq might be divided into the following regions:

- 1- The mountains and the sub-mountains to the East of the Tigris.
- 2- The Jazera.

3- The Western Plateau.

4- The Alluvial Plain.

The mountains and the sub-mountains to the East of
the Tigris:

This region lies to the East of the Tigris. It covers an area about 2500 Km or 5.2% of the total area. The land here rises in three states (like a ladder) from the Tigris towards the North-East. The mountains here form a part of the Alpine system ranges which stretch in a south easterly direction from the Central Alps through the Balkan, the Taurus, the Zagros and on to the Hamalaya.

The Jazera:

The Jazera means island. It was so called because it was almost entirely enclosed by a ring of water formed by upper courses of the Tigris and the Euphrates and by streams and canals joining the two rivers to the South of the Jazera.

The Jazera is cut by numerous valleys. The most prominent one is Wadi al-Thurthar. It starts from Jabal Singar, takes the Southern direction and tends to run parallel to the Tigris. It ends in a big depression between Istabilat mounds on the Tigris and Heet on the Euphrates. This depression is called the Thurthar Lake. The Thurthar has three sources namely:

Wadi al-Thurthar, Wadi Ibra and Wadi Thraithir and many other valleys that come from the Northern mountains of the Jazera which feed these springs.

The secondary springs of al-Thurthar come from the Eastern mountains which stretch by the right side of the Tigris. So it seems that Wadi al-Thurthar forms the major drainage valley of al-Jazera.