

## **“A Hard People”**

**Participant:** Ryan Crocker

**Interview Date:** September 9–10, 2010

**Project:** George W. Bush Oral History Project

Ryan Crocker was a distinguished American diplomat who, in 2007, was named by President George W. Bush as American ambassador to Iraq. But earlier, shortly after the U.S. invasion in 2003, Crocker had been one of the first senior civilians posted to Iraq, where he was assigned by Coalition Provisional Authority director L. Paul Bremer III to work with the Iraqis in determining what their new form of government would look like. He describes here his early dealings with Iraqi politicians.

**Interviewer:** Was there a particular actor or set of actors that you found to be surprising or particularly challenging?

**Ryan Crocker:** This is Iraq and these are Iraqis, so it’s hard and it’s hard all the time. They are a hard people in a hard place. They were all challenging. There are no pliable personalities in the upper levels of Iraqi politics. The pliable ones are dead.

*End of excerpt.*

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URL: <https://millercenter.org/the-presidency/presidential-oral-histories/ryan-crocker-oral-history>