

# Ali Allawi

## Summary

Ali Allawi was appointed Iraqi finance minister on 7 May 2020 by PM Mustafa Al-Kadhimi. He resigned on 16 August 2022 over the "cancer" of corruption that he said had spread throughout the state. Allawi is a veteran, Shiite politician, and served previously as trade and defence minister. Prior to returning to Iraq in 2003, Allawi lived in exile – including in London – for over four decades and worked as a merchant banker and as a professor at Oxford University. He was the executive director of Arab International Finance bank and worked for the Washington-based World Bank Group. He was born in 1947.

## Education

Bachelor of science degree in Civil Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA in 1968

Masters in Business Administration, Harvard Business School, USA, 1971

## Media, affiliations

Allawi holds dual Iraqi-British citizenship

He is not officially affiliated to any particular political party.

[Twitter](#)

## Family

Allawi belongs to the powerful Rabiah tribe of north-central Iraq

He is the son of Abdul-Amir Allawi, a former health minister

He is a cousin of Iyad Allawi, a former Iraqi PM and the head of the Sunni-backed Iraqi National Accord Movement

Former Iraqi PM Ahmad Chalabi (deceased) was his maternal uncle

## Languages

Arabic (mother tongue), English

## Alternative name, spelling

Also known as Ali Abdul-Amir Abbas; Ali Abdul-Amir Allawi

## **2020, 7 May**

He is [appointed finance minister](#) and acting oil minister by newly elected PM Mustafa al-Kadhimi

## **2018, 28 May**

Allawi is approved as an acceptable prime ministerial candidate by the State of Law Coalition, Conquest (Fatah) bloc and the Shiite authority in Najaf. He is considered to be a middle-ground option, since he is not affiliated to any political party

## **2016, 6 April**

Following his nomination as finance minister by PM Haidar Al-Abadi, Allawi withdraws his candidacy, citing “political interference and partisan differences” as an insurmountable obstacle to implementing tangible reform

## **2014, 1 January**

Releases a biography entitled “Faisal I of Iraq” about the king of Iraq between 1921 and 1933 to great acclaim

## **2013-2014**

Allawi is appointed visiting research professor at the National University of Singapore

## **2009, October**

Allawi’s book “The Crisis of Islamic Civilization” wins silver in the Washington Institute for Near East Policy’s annual book awards. The Economist names it one of the Best Books of 2009

## **2008-2009**

He serves as a senior visiting fellow at Princeton University and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government

## **2007, 1 April**

Releases his book “The Occupation of Iraq: Winning the War, Losing the Peace”

## **2005, 6 April – 2006, 20 May**

Allawi serves as finance minister in the cabinet led by Ibrahim Al-Jafari

## **2004, April-June**

He briefly serves as Iraqi defence minister following the ministry's dismantlement and reformation under the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) in March. The CPA acted as a caretaker government following the ouster of Saddam Hussein

## **2003, September – 2004, June**

Allawi serves as trade minister in the Coalition Provisional Authority

## **2002, 17 January**

Allawi adds his name to the list of Iraqi expat dissidents issuing the "Declaration of the Shia of Iraq". The document expresses common concern over the situation in Iraq in general and that of the Shiites in particular. It aims to confront the issue of sectarianism and anti-Shiite biases of the Iraqi state

## **1999-2002**

He is appointed a senior associate at St Antony's College, Oxford University

## **1992**

He founds the Fisa Group, which manages two hedge funds

## **1979-1992**

Allawi is founding member and CEO of one of the first international Arab investment banks in London. He forms Progas Energy, a company which develops and invests in businesses in energy infrastructure, logistics, storage, ports and power generation. It focuses on Indian Ocean rim countries and the Middle East

## **1978**

He co-founds Arab International Finance, a merchant bank based in London

## **1971-1979**

Allawi works as an investment consultant for a number of businesses

## **1958**

His family flees Iraq after the 14 July Revolution owing to its links to the royal family. The coup

results in the overthrow of the Hashemite monarchy and leads to the establishment of the Republic of Iraq

**1947**

Born in Baghdad.

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