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Resurrecting the Dead: On the Exploitation of Ba'athist Violence in the Service of War

Recently, a *New York Times* reporter transferred out of Iraq thousands of pages of documents abandoned by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). The transfer of the documents to the United States, and the analysis and publication of their contents by Americans, sparked a controversy and reopened longstanding wounds over who gets to own and tell Iraq's history. Owing to its vast collection of captured Ba'th Party records, the Hoover Institution is implicated—fairly or unfairly—in this controversy. Using never before seen documents uncovered from the *Kanan Makiya Papers*—a collection also held at the Hoover Institution—my aim is to tell the story of the capture, uses, and transfer of the Ba'th Party archives. The *Kanan Makiya Papers* contains numerous documents detailing the instrumentalization of Ba'th Party atrocities, uncovered from the Party archives now housed at the Hoover Institution—by the Department of Defense to justify the 2003 invasion and occupation of Iraq. The goal, then, of my presentation is to tell the history of the data—a story that is likely unknown to the archivists at the Hoover Institution.