

War Intervention and Order since 1990

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The reasons that lay behind the invasion of Iraq by United States

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America's war on Iraq in 2003, according to George Bush and Tony Blair, is a result of a series of political, economic, humanitarian, and security reasons. In this essay I am going to state the reasons for the war in Iraq, as well as give my position on the topic.

Saddam never had valid diplomatic and political relations with the U.S. until the first Gulf War, when 'Reagan' decided that it is in US strategic interests to support Saddam because he thought Iran was the bigger threat/evil to U.S. interests in the Persian Gulf. Until the 1980's the U.S. position on Iraq was mainly neutral but nevertheless condoning Iraqi support of terrorist and militant groups in the Arab World. However, when in 1982 Iran started to counterattack successfully, the U.S. administration decided to assist Saddam in defeating Iran (which was supported with arms from Russia, France and China. The U.S. administration provided Saddam with biological weapons and arms in order to win their ideological war on the Islamic Revolution in Iran (US Department of Commerce). Nevertheless, when Saddam invaded Kuwait in 1990 the U.S. took a different stand leading the coalition forces to defeat Saddam and force Iraqi forces out of Kuwait. Bush Junior's administration elected in 2000 had Saddam on their agenda with a

priority- access to Persian Gulf oil. They needed motivation to launch legitimate attack on Iraq but September 11 attacks commenced new era for USA to launch a new strategy for fighting terrorist and States that support terrorist activities. Iraq was considered the most dangerous country and immediate measures were required to be taken regarding Iraqi military technology WMD, chemical weapons and Ballistic missiles. Bush in his speech on Iraq, October 7, 2002 in an attempt to legitimize the war and to convince the American population that overthrowing Saddam from power is necessary –preemptive strike before it is too late. He manipulated the public space to spread fear and use the fear card. Bush played on the emotions and pain of the American people at time when people were mourning, he used their grief to justify going to war. He expressed his conviction that “destruction of Iraq’s WMD capabilities lies in a regime change in Iraq. Eliminating Saddam Hussein will lead to destruction of Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction”. Bush claimed the reason for going to war is reducing the causes of war and demonstrating to the international community that the U.S. is committed to abolishing WMD and terrorism. Bush wanted to set an example and deter other governments from supporting terrorism and trying to acquire WMDs. (Wikipedia, Gulf war)

The fundamental problem with Iraq “remains the nature of the Iraqi regime itself” (“George Bush’s speech on Iraq”, October 7, 2002) has stated for the Guardian a former chief weapons inspector of the UN. The threat arises also from Saddam’s history of aggression and his support to terrorism, signified by him killing thousands of his own people particularly Kurdish and Shiites, attacking and brutally occupying other nations, eight years of war with Iran and invading Kuwait and being close to attacking Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf States. (cited by the Guardian Unlimited Online, 2003).

In American perceptions, former Iraqi president Saddam represents an uncontrollable entity feared as capable of causing an apocalyptic threat against U.S. national security interests. The problem poses a notion of urgency provoked by Saddam's growing power, in regard to technological capabilities and developments towards possessing a nuclear weapon and his violation of U.N. resolutions. Bush announced in his speech (Guardian Unlimited Online, 2003) that US intelligence groups have discovered that some of the most dangerous terrorists and leaders of Al-Qaida found protection within the borders of Iraq, that Iraq possesses ballistic missiles and has an increasing fleet of above ground vehicles, rebuilding facilities, used for the production of chemical and nuclear weapons, cooperating with terrorists in order to achieve their common goal- to damage America (Guardian Unlimited Online, 2003).

Bush declared that America and its people want peace. According to him war is a tool, used for defending the international security and protecting freedom. America sees Iraqi regime as threat to the global peace and pleaded for help for the Iraqi people (humanitarian issue, protection of human rights- international benefits of war). Bush stated for the Guardian Unlimited that the lives of Iraqis would improve dramatically, as many of them call for outside interference to remove Saddam from power. (Guardian Unlimited Online, 2003).

America, has already tried through the years economic sanctions, limited military strikes, no-fly zones, inspections to neutralize Saddam gradually going up the Spectrum of Pressures and in 2003 the administration reached the next step up the spectrum of escalation.

On one hand I supported the war on Iraq for one reason, which was ousting Saddam from power. But on the other hand, America should not have the superiority and the right to choose the leader of Iraq and what technologies the country can develop. I support the view of an American, stated his position about the war on Iraq in an online opinion poll that in reality, Iraq has not launched any attack on America, it has no power to threaten the US and it does not have a nuclear weapons. America, on the other hand, is the only nation in history used a nuclear bomb, when destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan. Bush claims that Saddam slaughtered his own people; however, the American government was the one, which “purposely spread syphilis to its own citizens” (Bet boards online, 2003). The U.N. imposed economic sanctions on Iraq to prevent Saddam from developing WMD, resulting in population’s starvation and deaths (antihumanistic policy) and in order to benefit from Iraqi oil allowed Iraq to trade oil for food and medicine. Many Americans disbelieve the actual existence of link between Al-Qaida and Iraq. Some Americans call Bush “ruthless”, stating that, while being governor of Texas he “executed more people than any other governor in modern history” (Daniel, 2004).

Economical interests are the other side to motivate the invasion of Iraq, since the oil crisis in 1970s USA constantly tried to manipulate the world oil market. Therefore, the invasion of Iraq would have provided the U.S. with indirect control over Iraqi oil, which is the second largest country of world oil reserves. The decision that was made by Saddam in 2000 to use the Euro as a fixed exchange for Iraqi oil and dispossessing the dollar from the Iraqi market created a great threat to the U.S. Dollar. I think the Euro was threatening the US dollar which required it being stopped in order for America to maintain their economic superiority and financial set up. The reconstruction of Iraq

provided new economical opportunities and also reopened the Iraqi market to US products. (Wikipedia). Personally I think the economical factors had very decisive role in motivating the invasion and the economical reasons must be considered as important as the security reasons. However, the reason for having security issues on the table - being exploited and propagandised was to win public approval and legitimize the invasion.

One can argue that this war is about control of resources. Bush is the Oil Barons' president. Vice President Dick Cheney is the former head of an oil company called Halliburton Co. Dick Chaney explained his opposition to Saddam by saying "He sits on top of 10 percent of the world's oil reserves, which generate enormous wealth. And left to his own devices, it's the judgment of many of us that in the not too distant future he will acquire nuclear weapons". It's interesting to note that Chaney places oil above nuclear weapons in his list of concerns. But is Saddam really was a threat? As the former Reagan official Kenneth Edelman argued "every day Mr. Bush holds off liberating Iraq is another day endangering America". US was not concerned that Saddam would launch an attack against USA, but they were concern about his technology and capability of rebuilding WMD and provide it to terrorists, the reason that U.S. was determined to remove Saddam regime because they knew he has the power and technology to rebuild WMD at any opportunity. Both economical and security were together vital elements to motivate USA to invade Iraq and oust Saddam from power. The humanistic reasons- to help the Iraqi people reconstruct a free and stable Iraq were just fancy words to persuade the American population, which demonstrated against the war on the streets of America.

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