

# THE IRAQI WAR

Iraq March 2003 - debated (based on what you believe we were fighting...)

## WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION!

On one side of the conflict are the United States of America, The United Kingdom, Australia and their allies. On the other side was originally Iraq under Saddam Hussein, but since his capture, al-Qaeda and other Radical Islamic forces remain.

The War in Iraq began with the invasion of Iraq by the US, UK, and their allies. The purpose of the invasion was to capture and arrest Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Hussein was thought to have WMD that he could use or sell to harm the U.S. In March 2003, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said "We know where the WMD



Political map of Iraq. Remember, Iraq is home to Sunni and Shia Muslims that argue for political power.

are..." and the U.S. (and allies) went in to find them. **They never found any!**

In May of 2003, President George W. Bush stated that, "Major combat operations in Iraq have ended. In the battle of Iraq, the United States and our allies have prevailed." But the fighting continued as small groups began disagreeing about who would take over if the U.S. got rid of Saddam Hussein. In December 2003, Hussein was captured and the small-group fighting REALLY got bad. When the U.S. tried to hold Democratic elections (allowing Iraqi citizens to vote), the Sunni and Shia and other groups could not agree on who they wanted to lead. After the arrest of Saddam, the UK and Australia stayed in Iraq until 2008, but the US still remains in Iraq continuing to fight al-Qaeda.



### WHO/WHERE

United States & Saddam Hussein  
Iraq

### WHAT

Iraq's leader Saddam Hussein was thought to be hiding Weapons of Mass Destruction. People feared that Iraq would help terrorist organizations.

### WHEN

March 2003- today

### WHY

In 2001, the U.S. was attacked by al-Qaeda ... a radical Muslim terrorist group. Americans wanted to protect themselves from another attack by killing the terrorists.

## ARE THERE TERRORISTS IN IRAQ?

Saddam Hussein, president of Iraq, was thought to be hiding WMD that he could give or sell to terrorist organizations such as al-Qaeda. Hussein was definitely letting al-Qaeda leaders take refuge in Iraq.



Though some al-Qaeda leaders were found and killed in Iraq, WMD and most leaders WERE NOT FOUND. The fighting among insurgent groups continues and the U.S. is afraid to leave Iraq because of the violence that its civilians will encounter.

To date, \$900 billion of U.S. money has been spent on this war.

To date, 4477 U.S. troops have died in Iraq. 54% of these were under the age of 25.

## Insurgent groups:

 Baath Party  
Loyalists

 Islamic State of  
Iraq

 al-Qaeda in Iraq  
(2003–11)

 Mahdi Army  
Special Groups  
Islamic Army of Iraq  
Ansar al-Sunnah

 Iraq under  
Saddam Hussein

**Insurgent: (n.)** a rebel, someone who forcibly rises against a civil or government authority\*

\*paraphrased definition from Dictionary.com



The defeat of Saddam Hussein was a wonderful thing for the citizens of Iraq, because Hussein was a horrible dictator, but many were still loyal to his cause. There were still radical groups that operated in Iraq, mainly al-Qaeda.



Many children were pulled into terrorist attacks, because United Nation laws said that US forces aren't allowed to kill children, even if they are armed.

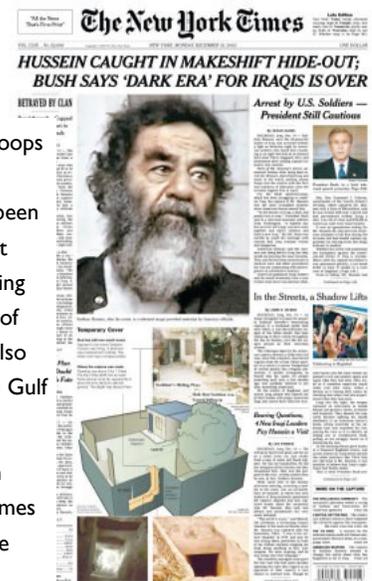


The political evolution of Iraq began with the toppling of Saddam Hussein's statue in Baghdad, Iraq's capital. Many Iraqis wanted Hussein gone because he was a cruel dictator.



In December 2003, U.S. troops captured Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. He had been accused of helping terrorist organizations and committing crimes against the citizens of Iraq. Remember, he was also responsible for the Persian Gulf War 10 years earlier.

Hussein was given a trial in 2005 and convicted of "crimes against humanity". Then he was executed.



## WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE THE CAPTURE & EXECUTION OF SADDAM HUSSEIN?

**Jan. 30, 2005:** Iraqis vote in the *first democratic, multi-party parliamentary elections in 50 years*. Shiites and Kurds vote in large numbers. Sunnis do not.

**May 2005:** Violence and deaths of civilians (non-soldiers) increases as groups fight for who should rule Iraq. It is estimated that 25,000 civilians had died *since the war ended*.

**Dec. 15, 2005:** Iraqis from most regions turn out in a vote for a permanent government. Shiites win a majority of votes but don't win the power.

**Feb. 22, 2006:** A Shiite shrine in Samarra is bombed and severely damaged, triggering a new round of violence. Dozens of bodies are found executed on Iraqi streets daily.



The U.S. worked with Iraq's new military to train them how to deal with the insurgent groups that have continued fighting.

Even though Saddam Hussein was gone and the people could vote, violence got worse. The U.S. stayed (and is still in) Iraq to help defend the citizens and train the new Iraqi military. U.S. troops have been in Iraq since 2003.

