



The National Endowment for the Humanities and National University together: Exploring the human endeavor

Timeline of Operation Iraqi Freedom

1980:

- On September 22 Iraq invades Iran leading to the Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988) – U.S. supports Iraq with several billion dollars' worth of economic aid, the sale of dual-use technology (including biological agents and nuclear material), non-U.S. origin weaponry, military intelligence, and special operations training.

1990:

- On August 2 Iraq invades Kuwait.

1991:

- On January 17 Operation Desert Storm commenced (Operation Desert Storm ended officially on 11/30/1995)
- On April 3 UN Resolution 687 bans Iraq WMDs.
- On April 11 Gulf War ceasefire (UN).
- Summer months, Iraq destroys WMD equipment under United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) supervision.

1994:

- United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) destroys Iraq's known chemical weapons and neutralizes Iraq's nuclear program.

1998:

- December 12 U.S. Operation Desert Fox—U.S. air raid on Iraqi military targets; UNSCOM and IAEA pull out of Iraq—ends cooperation between Iraq and inspectors, but it also destroys WMD infrastructure.

2001:

- On September 11 Al Qaeda strikes United States with airliners.

2002:

- On January 29. President Bush accuses Iraq of being part of an "Axis of Evil."
- On July 23 British intelligence (MI6) stated that Bush wanted to remove Saddam, WMDs or no.
- On November 8 UN Sec Council Resolution 1441 gives Iraq a final chance to comply with disarmament commitments; UNMOVIC and IAEA begin inspections again 11/27/2002.

2003:

- Global protests against War in Iraq in early 2003
- January 9 Report to UN Security Council: inspectors report "no smoking guns."
- On January 28 in State of the Union, Bush implies Iraq is developing nuclear weapons.
- On February 5 Colin Powell's gives a speech to the UN Security Council claiming to show proof of Iraqi WMDs and Iraq posed an imminent threat to the region and U.S.
- On February 14 UN Chief Weapons Inspector Hans Blix reports to UN Security Council that his team has found no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.
- On March 20 Bush launches invasion of Iraq with Operation Iraqi Liberation, later renamed Operation Iraqi Freedom.
- On April 9 Baghdad falls.
- On May 1, speaking on the USS Abraham Lincoln, Bush declares "major combat operations" over, although some fighting continues.
- On May 29 Bush announces that United States found WMDs.

- On October 2 David Kay, head of the Iraq Survey Group, tells Congress that United States has yet to find WMD evidence.

2004:

- On January 22 CIA officers in Iraq warn of civil war.
- On April 28 Images of torture at Abu Ghraib revealed.
- On May 11 Video of Nicholas Berg, U.S. contractor, beheaded by militants.
- On June 28 United States transfers sovereignty to Iraq.
- In July, a U.S. bipartisan commission formed to investigate the September 11 attacks reported that there was no evidence of a "collaborative operational relationship" between the Ba'athist government and al-Qaeda.
- On September 7 the number of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq reaches 1,000.
- On September 16 UN Sec Gen Kofi Annan declares Iraq War illegal.
- On October 7 Duelfer Report: Iraq did not have WMDs.
- On November 8 U.S. assault on Fallujah - largest military operation since invasion – about 2,000 insurgents killed.

2005:

- On January 12 WMD search declared over.
- On October 15 Iraqis vote to ratify constitution.
- On October 26 the number of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq reaches 2,000.
- On December 15 Iraqis elect Iraqi Assembly.

2006:

- On March 15 the United States Congress appoints the Iraq Study Group, a ten-person bipartisan panel, to assess the US-led Iraq War and make policy recommendations.
- On March 19 Bush promises "complete victory" in Iraq.
- On April 12 *The Washington Post* reports Pentagon concluded in May 2003 that no WMDs had been found.
- In July 3,438 Iraqi civilians died, 1,666 bombs exploded—both records.
- On August 21 Bush says Iraq had nothing to do with 9/11.
- On August 22 Marines begin involuntary troop recalls.
- On October 24, 19% of Americans believe United States is winning the war in Iraq.
- On November 1 classified military briefing reports Iraq is "edging toward chaos."
- On November 9 Iraq health minister reports 150,000 civilian deaths in Iraq.
- On December 6, Iraq Study Group issues its report and finds the situation in Iraq to be "grave and deteriorating."
- On December 8, 71% of Americans disapproval of Bush's handling of the war.
- In December, Bush administration pressing for increase in troops to Iraq.
- On December 30 Saddam was executed by hanging.

2007:

- January, nearly 2,000 Iraqi civilian deaths, a new monthly high.
- On January 3 Death toll of U.S. troops reaches 3,000.
- On January 10 Bush gives speech announcing "surge."
- On March 14 Pentagon calls Iraq a civil war.
- On April 12 Iraqi parliament bombed inside Green Zone.
- On May 1 Bush vetoes congressional plan for withdrawal from Iraq.
- On June 11 U.S. forces begin arming Sunni militias.
- On June 16 Coalition death toll hits 4,000.
- On September 16 Blackwater contractors kill 14–17 Iraqi civilians without cause at Nisour Square in Baghdad.
- On November 24 U.S. begins major pullout from Iraq.

2008:

- On March 23 the number of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq reaches 4,000.
- On July 22 the surge officially ends and troop levels are reduced.

- On September 1 United States transfers control of Anbar province to Iraq.
- 2009:
- On January 1, U.S. military hands control of Baghdad's Green Zone to Iraqi authorities
 - On June 30 U.S. combat troops depart Iraq's cities and Iraqi troops take over security operations, however, 130,000 U.S. troops remain in the country to continue combat operations and patrols in rural areas.
 - October, the number of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq reaches over 4,300 and the Iraqi government estimates that 85,000 Iraqis died between 2004 and 2008.
- 2010:
- On August 31 President Obama declares end to combat mission in Iraq; operational name changes to Operation New Dawn.
 - On October 22 WikiLeaks publishes nearly 400,000 secret U.S. military documents from the Iraq War online under the title "Iraq War Log."
- 2011:
- On October 17, 2011, senior US military official tells CNN that the United States and Iraq have been unable to come to an agreement regarding legal immunity for US troops who would remain in Iraq after the end of the year, effectively ending discussion of maintaining an American force presence after the end of 2011.
 - On December 15 U.S. troops declare an end to operations—more than one million service members served, 4,400 died, and it cost more than \$1 trillion.
- 2013:
- On March 6 Special Inspector-General for Reconstruction in Iraq Report shows \$10 billion was misspent.*



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