TEACHING THE 2003 IRAQ WAR

THREE CURRICULUM MODULES WITH PROPOSED TOPICS, SOURCES AND QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS
### Issues
- False narratives about weapons of mass destruction and terrorist links as justification for armed regime change
- Ethical and legal judgments on the invasion of Iraq and the doctrine of preemptive attack
- Post-9/11 authorizations to use force and launch U.S. drone strikes today

### Readings and sources
- Brianna Rosen, “The Longest War is Over the Horizon,” Just Security, November 1 2021, The Longest War is Over the Horizon (justsecurity.org).

### Questions
- Was the Iraq war based on “faulty intelligence” or deliberate misinformation?
- How does Putin’s war of choice in Ukraine compare to Bush’s war of choice in Iraq?
- Small groups to debate: Is the current U.S. policy of launching drone and aircraft strikes in various countries a morally justifiable use of force?
TOPIC 2
COST AND CONSEQUENCES

Issues
- The toll in lives lost and dollars spent; occupation and going over to the “dark side”
- Violent instability in the Levant and the rise of ISIS
- Increased Islamophobia, police violence and racial intolerance in the U.S. and beyond

Readings and sources
Neta Crawford, “The Iraq War has cost the U.S. nearly $2 trillion.” Military Times, February 6, 2020. The Iraq War has cost the US nearly $2 trillion (militarytimes.com)


Questions
- Have the post-9/11 wars made America and the world safer?
- Is there a relationship between the global war on terror and the erosion of democratic rights at home and in other countries?
- How will the costs and consequences of the war affect future generations in this country and in Iraq?
TOPIC 1

Why did the largest peace movement in history fail to stop the invasion of Iraq? What influences did the movement have?

Small groups propose alternative policies for countering violent extremism and enhancing security through diplomacy, development and peacebuilding.

Do Americans owe the Iraqi people reparations after the loss of life and destruction we caused?

Readings and sources


Issues

- The road not taken: the role of the UN, weapons inspections, targeted sanctions, and diplomacy
- February 15, 2003, the largest antiwar protests in history; an overview of global opinion
- Nonmilitary means of countering violent extremism and policy implications for today

Questions

- Why did the largest peace movement in history fail to stop the invasion of Iraq? What influences did the movement have?
- Small groups propose alternative policies for countering violent extremism and enhancing security through diplomacy, development and peacebuilding.
- Do Americans owe the Iraqi people reparations after the loss of life and destruction we caused?
Books


Hans Blix, Disarming Iraq (New York: Pantheon, 2009).


Haifa Zangana, City of Windows: An Iraqi Woman’s Account of War and Resistance (New York: Seven Stories Press, 2009).

Articles


Neta Crawford, "The Iraq War has cost the U.S. nearly $2 trillion." *Military Times*, February 6, 2020, The Iraq War has cost the US nearly $2 trillion (militarytimes.com)

FAIR (Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting). "In Iraq Crisis, Networks Are Megaphones for Official Views," March 18, 2003, In Iraq Crisis, Networks Are Megaphones for Official Views - FAIR

Steven Kull, Clay Ramsay and Evan Lewis, "Misperceptions, the Media, and the Iraq War," *Political Science Quarterly* Vol. 118, No. 4 (Winter, 2003/2004), 569, Misperceptions, the Media, and the Iraq War on JSTOR

Malik Miah, "Black America and the Iraq War," *Against the Current* 104, May-June 2003, Black America and the Iraq War - Against the Current


Films


*Why We Fight*, Written and directed by Eugene Jarecki, Sony Pictures Classics, 2005.

For additional sources on the Iraq War from the Costs of War project, go to this site.