TEACHING
THE 2003
IRAQ WAR
THREE PROPOSED TOPICS
WITH SOURCES AND
QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS
TOPIC 1
WAS IT JUST?

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
- Mary Ellen O’Connell, “The Legal Case Against the Global War on Terror,” Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law, 349 (2004), “The Legal Case Against the Global War on Terror” by Mary Ellen O’Connell (nd.edu)
- 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?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues</th>
<th>Readings and sources</th>
<th>Questions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The toll in lives lost and dollars spent; occupation and going over to the “dark side”</td>
<td>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)</td>
<td>Have the post-9/11 wars made America and the world safer?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent instability in the Levant and the rise of ISIS</td>
<td>“Mayer Reveals ‘Dark Side’ of War on Terror,” Terry Gross, Fresh Air, National Public Radio, October 24, 2008, Mayer Reveals ‘Dark Side’ Of War On Terror : NPR</td>
<td>Is there a relationship between the global war on terror and the erosion of democratic rights at home and in other countries?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased Islamophobia, police violence and racial intolerance in the U.S. and beyond</td>
<td>Jessica Katzenstein, “The Wars Are Here: How the United States’ Post-9/11 Wars Helped Militarize U.S. Police,” September 16, 2020, Watson Institute, Brown University, Microsoft Word - Police Militarization_Costs of War_Sept 16 2020.docx (brown.edu)</td>
<td>How will the costs and consequences of the war affect future generations in this country and in Iraq?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

- Jennifer Walkup Jayes, "Beyond the War Paradigm: What History Tells Us About How Terrorist Campaigns End," February 8, 2022, Watson Institute, Brown University, Microsoft Word - Walkup Jayes War Paradigm Paper 2022_02_07 FINAL-5.docx (brown.edu)

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?

TOPIC 3

ALTERNATIVES TO WAR

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
Books


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


Haifa Zangana, City of Widows: 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](https://www.fair.org/article/in-iraq-crisis-networks-are-megaphones-for-official-views)


Films


We Are Many, Directed by Amir Amirani, Amirani Media, 2020.

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.