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Introduction

The Iraq War was a protracted armed conflict in Iraq from 2003 to 2011 that began with the invasion of Iraq by the United States–led coalition that overthrew the Iraqi government of Saddam Hussein. One million civilians and 4,500 soldiers (US) died, trillions of dollars pissed away in the sands, Al Qaida in Iraq created from nowhere, The Middle East completely destabilized with mayhem and misery for all its people. U.S. government did all that just for oil and to show world their power, was it really worth it?

I saw a video on TikTok in that video I saw president bush was giving a speech during that a Iraq war veteran started yelling at him was saying “millions of Iraqi died because you lied, you sent us there and all my friends are dead because you lied”, so this got me thinking about this like why would a president wanted to go to a war if it’s not necessary, why did he lied about that? I wanted to know what’s the real reasons behind that. In this research I’m going to dig as deep as I can to find out the real reasons behind this war and from where all this started.

Source Entries

Citation #1

Antic, Miljenko. "Iraq War (2003-): Was It Morally Justified?" *Politička Misao*, vol. 46, no. 1, 2009, pp. 88–113.

Summary

This article starts with the theory of just war explains the difference between aggression and self-defense, after that author argues with some arguments in the favor of the intervention in Iraq. And it states that invasion on Iraq was not morally justified, in the war U.S. was showing aggression not the self-defense also explained why the USA under Bush wanted so much the democratization of Iraq. For example, according to Chomsky (2007: 156), "in 2002, Washington embraced President's Bush's vision of democracy by supporting a military coup that very briefly overturned the Chavez government". And Chavez was a democratically elected president. So, why was the USA willing to sacrifice so many American soldiers and Iraqi citizens to bring democracy to Iraq, simultaneously destroying a democracy, the USA did not originally justify the aggression by claiming that it wanted to bring democracy to Iraq. Only when it became obvious that Iraq did not possess weapons of mass destruction (WMD), did the story of democratization start to be important. The most logical explanation is that the USA attacked Iraq neither because Iraq possessed WMD¹⁹ nor because it was important to the USA that Iraq should be a democracy. The reason was Iraqi oil.

Reflection

I agree with this article because this argues that the US-led invasion of Iraq was not morally justified. It was all the aggression of U.S. government to Control over Iraqi oil that should improve security of supplies to the US, and possibly the UK, with the development and exploration contracts between Saddam and China, France, India, Indonesia, and Russia being set aside in favor of US and possibly British companies. And a US military presence in Iraq is an insurance policy against any extremists in Iran and Saudi Arabia. The article also shows the arguments that are in the favor of that war and explains how they are wrong.

Quote

“The strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must”

Citation #2

Harris Johnny, how U.S. stole Iraq, 2021, YouTube video, <https://youtu.be/C8YIGkoYXXM>

SUMMARY

The video starts with the question “Why did the US go to war in Iraq?”, and in video he explained every single detail, how all this started. How after 911 government linked that attack to Iraq and Saddam Hussein. Paul Wolfowitz convinced President Bush explained him how easy to take over Iraq. After 911 there was no clear easy target to retaliate against then they decided to find a way to invade Iraq. Even though Iraq had nothing to do with al-Qaeda and 911 attack, government would find a way to make a connection. After a year from 911 they found a connection and that

was weapons of mass destruction that could be used against U.S. and to free Iraq people from Saddam Hussein and then this happened. After two months U.S. invaded Iraq president gave a speech on mission accomplished but mission accomplished was really mission just beginning. Then all the ex-Iraqi soldiers started to join the growing number of rebel groups that are there cropping up to oppose the U.S. presence some of those groups were ISIS and those run by ex-military leaders. U.S. government didn't expect anything like that to be happened, these groups made it much difficult for U.S. to keep control over country. After many years of war these groups like ISIS were able to take their country back from United States and made their own government.

REFLECTION

I'm totally agree with this video, because he showed all the evidence and proved everything he said in video. He explained how Paul Wolfowitz put the plan of war in President George Bush's mind that's when they all started to connecting Iraq with terrorism and 911 attack, but I didn't understand why Paul Wolfowitz wanted U.S. to start war with Iraq, instead of this Johnny Harris explained everything really good. I think all the information in video is relevant and true.

Quote

“Mission accomplished was really mission just beginning”

Citation #3

Masters, Jonathan “Was the Iraq war worth it”, 2011, <https://www.cfr.org/expert-roundup/was-iraq-war-worth-it> .

Summary

In this expert-roundup Jonathan masters wrote point-of-view of four people on question “was the Iraq war worth it” where Andrew Bacevich said that the world is a better place without Saddam Hussein, but it hurts that the war took millions lives and trillions of dollars spent. CFR’s Max Boot says it may be premature to assess the benefits but there remains a chance for Iraq to serve as "a model for the Arab Spring." Michael Ignatieff, an academic, human rights advocate, and initial supporter of the war, says groups like the Kurds and the Shia in Iraq have gained. But it’s "difficult to believe the war was worth it," he says, given the damage to U.S. credibility, the strengthening of Iran, and the lack of stability in Iraq. Michael O’Hanlon of the Brookings Institution expresses hope that over time the "the war will not be seen historically as a mistake or failure."

Reflection

I read this expert-roundup couple times for better understanding, after all I can only completely agree with Andrew Bacevich, because that’s what I think about Iraq war. Its good that U.S. killed Saddam Hussein bus what was the fault of millions of civilians that got killed and U.S. soldiers that died in that, does that make U.S. better that Saddam Hussein? Well, I don’t think so.

Quote

“The disastrous legacy of the Iraq War extends beyond treasure squandered and lives lost or shattered”

Conclusion

In this research I was able to find the real reasons behind this war and how all this started. This was actually started right after 911 attack, but it took couple years for government officials to making things up to start war. They created the information about the weapons of mass destruction and this information was later proved false because there was no evidence found for weapons of mass destruction or any program to create those weapons for terrorists. The war started in 2003 and in couple months U.S. was able to invade Iraq as they expected after that U.S. government made some mistakes, from there things got out of their hands when groups like ISIS started fighting back with U.S. military to take back their country and the war last about 8 years. During those 8 years U.S. spent trillions of dollars, millions of people lost their lives and much more. So, here comes my question, was it really worth it? The answer is absolutely not. At first, I thought there is something not right, a president can't start this big war just to take control of oil, I couldn't believe that. But after completing this research I was surprised, because there's nothing else that could be the reason behind that war. however, I agree that they did one right thing that they killed Saddam Hussein. Afterall, what I think is U.S. government didn't expect that war to become that big, but they knew that things are getting out of their hands. They could've taken step back, but they didn't take it. That's what made them worse than Saddam Hussein U.S. government didn't do anything better than him.

My audience could be the people who likes to search about the wars and also likes to know the opinions of others, and they could be the age between 15 years to 25 years because anyone younger

than that don't need to know about wars and anyone the older than that might already know about this. This research will explain them much about the Iraq war and will save their time.