

10-Year Iraq War Anniversary: What We've Learned

By [Washington's Blog](#)

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Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [US NATO War Agenda](#)

In-depth Report: [IRAQ REPORT](#)

The Iraq war started 10 years ago.

Here's what we know now:

- The American government planned the Iraq war long [before 9/11](#). Former CIA director George Tenet said that the White House [wanted to invade Iraq long before 9/11, and inserted "crap" in its justifications for invading Iraq](#). Former Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill - who sat on the National Security Council - also [says](#) that Bush planned the Iraq war before 9/11. Top British officials [say](#) that the U.S. discussed Iraq regime change even before Bush took office. And in 2000, Cheney [said](#) a Bush administration might "have to take military action to forcibly remove Saddam from power." And see [this](#) and [this](#). Indeed, neoconservatives planned regime change [in Iraq - and throughout the Middle East and North Africa - 20 years ago](#).
- [Everyone knew](#) that Iraq did not possess weapons of mass destruction (update [here](#))
- The Iraq war [was - in fact - for oil](#)
- U.S. officials are guilty of war crimes for [using 9/11 as a false justification](#) for the Iraq war. Indeed, [the entire torture program was implemented in an attempt to justify](#) the Iraq war
- American officials [considered lettering Saddam should down a U.S. or UN plane, in order to provide a false justification for war](#)
- Saddam [allegedly](#) offered to leave Iraq if the U.S. would call off the war ... but we refused
- The American military used depleted uranium in Iraq - which can cause cancer and birth defects for decades (see [this](#), [this](#), [this](#), [this](#), [this](#) and [this](#)).
- The Pentagon sent in [one of the main US creators of the death squads in El Salvador to set up paramilitary death squads and torture centers](#) in Iraq
- Nobel prize winning economist Joseph Stiglitz estimated in 2008 that the Iraq war could cost America up to [\\$5 trillion dollars](#). But a new study by Brown

University's Watson Institute for International Studies says the Iraq war costs could exceed [\\$6 trillion](#), when interest payments are taken into account. And top economists say that war is [bad for the economy](#)

- National security experts – including both hawks and doves – agree that waging war against Iraq and other Middle Eastern countries has *weakened* national security and increases terrorism. See [this](#), [this](#), [this](#), [this](#), [this](#), [this](#), [this](#) and [this](#)
- Iraqis are [worse off now](#) than [before the Iraq war](#). Christians are [more widely persecuted](#) than under Saddam

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