**War in Iraq Part 1**

**Justification for War**

**Iraq involved?**

* In the days immediately following 9/11, the Bush Administration national security team actively debated an invasion of Iraq.
* An investigation into the attacks turned up only possible links to Saddam Hussein and 9-11
* While Osama bin Laden was stationed in Afghanistan, Iraq was seen as another safe-haven that he could have used to build his al Qaeda network.
* During 2002 British and American aircraft patrolling the no-fly zones of Iraq increased compared to the previous years
* In October 2002, a few days before the [US Senate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Senate) voted on the [Joint Resolution to Authorize the Use of United States Armed Forces Against Iraq](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joint_Resolution_to_Authorize_the_Use_of_United_States_Armed_Forces_Against_Iraq), about 75 senators were told in [closed session](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Closed_session) that Iraq had the means of attacking the Eastern Seaboard of the US with biological or chemical weapons delivered by [unmanned aerial vehicles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unmanned_aerial_vehicle) (UAVs.)
* **Saddam Hussein-** Dictator of Iraq at the start of the war who refused to cooperate with the United States and the U.N. by giving up "suspected" weapons of mass destruction.

**Justification for War**

* In February 2003, [Colin Powell](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colin_Powell) presented evidence in his Iraqi WMD program presentation to the [UN Security Council](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UN_Security_Council) that UAVs were ready to be launched against the United States.
* **Weapons of Mass Destruction-**Suspected Iraqi weapons of nuclear, chemical, or biological origin that could be used on the United States or other countries around the world (WMDs)
* At the time, there was a vigorous dispute within the US military and intelligence communities as to whether CIA conclusions about Iraqi UAVs were accurate
* Other intelligence agencies suggested that Iraq did not possess any offensive UAV capability, saying the few they had were designed for surveillance and intended for [reconnaissance](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reconnaissance)
* A few days before the [US Senate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Senate) voted to [authorize the use of United States Armed Forces Against Iraq](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joint_Resolution_to_Authorize_the_Use_of_United_States_Armed_Forces_Against_Iraq), about 75 senators were told in [closed session](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Closed_session) that Iraq had the means of attacking the US with biological or chemical weapons delivered by [unmanned aerial vehicles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unmanned_aerial_vehicle) (UAVs.)

**Permission to use force**

* [**Authorization for the Use of United States Armed Forces Against Iraq**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joint_Resolution_to_Authorize_the_Use_of_United_States_Armed_Forces_Against_Iraq)- Permission by Congress for the United States to use force against Iraq and Saddam Hussein
* The Senate voted to approve the Joint Resolution with the support of large bipartisan majorities in October 2002, providing the Bush administration with a [legal basis for the US invasion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legitimacy_of_the_2003_invasion_of_Iraq).
* The resolution granted the authorization by the [Constitution of the United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_the_United_States) and the [United States Congress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Congress) for the President to command the [military](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._military) to fight anti-United States violence.
* Citing the [Iraq Liberation Act of 1998](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq_Liberation_Act_of_1998), the resolution reiterated that it should be the policy of the United States to remove the Saddam regime and promote a democratic replacement.
* The authorization was signed by President George W. Bush on October 16th, 2002.

**WMD's?**

* **Hans Blix**- Chief UN weapons inspector who was given the task of investigating the alleged weapons of mass destruction in Iraq
* Blix remarked in January 2003 that "Iraq appears not to have come to a genuine acceptance—not even today—of the disarmament, which was demanded of it and which it needs to carry out to win the confidence of the world and to live in peace."
* In the [2003 State of the Union address](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2003_State_of_the_Union_address), President Bush said "we know that Iraq, in the late 1990s, had several mobile biological weapons labs".
* In February 2003, Secretary of State Colin Powell appeared before the UN to present evidence that Iraq was hiding unconventional weapons.
* In March 2003, Hans Blix reported that "No evidence of proscribed activities have so far been found" in Iraq, saying that progress was made in inspections which would continue.
* He estimated the time remaining for disarmament being verified through inspections to be "months".
* The US government announced that "diplomacy has failed", and that it would proceed with a coalition of allied countries, named the "[coalition of the willing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coalition_of_the_willing)", to rid Iraq of its alleged WMD.
* The US government abruptly advised UN weapons inspectors to leave [Baghdad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baghdad) immediately.
* Preparations for the invasion of Iraq began immediately