

*The Mounting Costs
of
The Iraq War*

March 2003 – March 2007

US Casualties

Period	US	UK	Other
March – May 2003 (end of major combat)	140	33	0
May 2003 – June 2004 ("sovereignty" returned to Iraq)	715	13	18
June 2004 – January 2005 (Iraq elections)	579	25	27
Feb 2005 – Dec 2005 (new Iraq elections)	718	27	58
Dec 2005 – March 2007	1071	36	21
Total	3223	134	124

Source: *Iraq Coalition Casualties Count* (<http://icasualties.org/oif/> sighted 21 March 2007)

US Wounded in Iraq

<u>Period</u>	<u>Total</u>
March – June 2003	643
July –Dec 2003	1658
Jan –June 2004	3242
July –Dec 2004	4735
Jan –August 2005	3105
Sept 2005 – April 2006	4363
May 2006 – Feb 2007	5548
Total	23417

Iraqi police and military deaths

Period

Total

Prior to 2005

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2005

9006

Jan-May 2006

3325

Civilian Casualties

Civilians reported killed by military intervention in Iraq

Min

35101

Max

39258

Countries Contributing Forces to US-led Coalition as of July 2004

Over 5000 soldiers

- United States 140,000
- United Kingdom 8,361

1000 - 5000 soldiers

- South Korea 3,700
- Italy 3,216
- Poland 2,500
- Ukraine 1,589
- Netherlands 1,345

Coalition Forces

100 - 1000 soldiers

- Romania 830
- Australia 400 (500 more stationed in Kuwait)
- Japan 550 (medics and engineers)
- Denmark 550
- Bulgaria 485
- El Salvador 380
- Mongolia 180
- Azerbaijan 250
- Georgia 300
- Latvia 122
- Czech Republic 107
- Lithuania 105
- Slovakia 105

Coalition Forces

Fewer than 100 soldiers

- Albania 70
- Estonia 55
- Tonga 45
- Kazakhstan 29
- Macedonia 33
- Moldova 12

Nations With Other Contributions

- Singapore 180 crewmen aboard an LST ship in the Persian Gulf

Governments withdrawing from ground operations

Nicaragua	February 2004
Spain	April 2004
Singapore	April 2004
Honduras	May 2004
Norway	June 2004
Dominican Republic	May 2004
Philippines	July 2004
Thailand	September 2004
New Zealand	September 2004
Hungary	December 2004
Tonga	December 2004
Portugal	February 2005
Moldova	February 2005

Governments withdrawing from ground operations

Poland	Withdrew 700 troops in February 2005
UK	Withdrew 800 troops between March and May 2005
Netherlands	March 2005
Hungary	March 2005
Singapore	March 2005
Norway	October 2005
Ukraine	December 2005
Japan	July 2006
Italy	November 2006
Slovakia	January 2007
<u>Plans to withdraw</u>	
Denmark	Will withdraw by August 2007
South Korea	Planning to withdraw up to 1200 soldiers by end of 2007
UK	Will withdraw another 2100 troops by end of 2007

Mounting Costs of war

Estimated Number of insurgents in Iraq:

- November 2003: 5,000 fighters
- December 2004: 40,000 fighters & 200,000 sympathizers

According to US National Intelligence Council:

Iraq war has created

a training and recruitment ground (for terrorists), and an opportunity for terrorists to enhance their technical skills

US public attitudes to the war

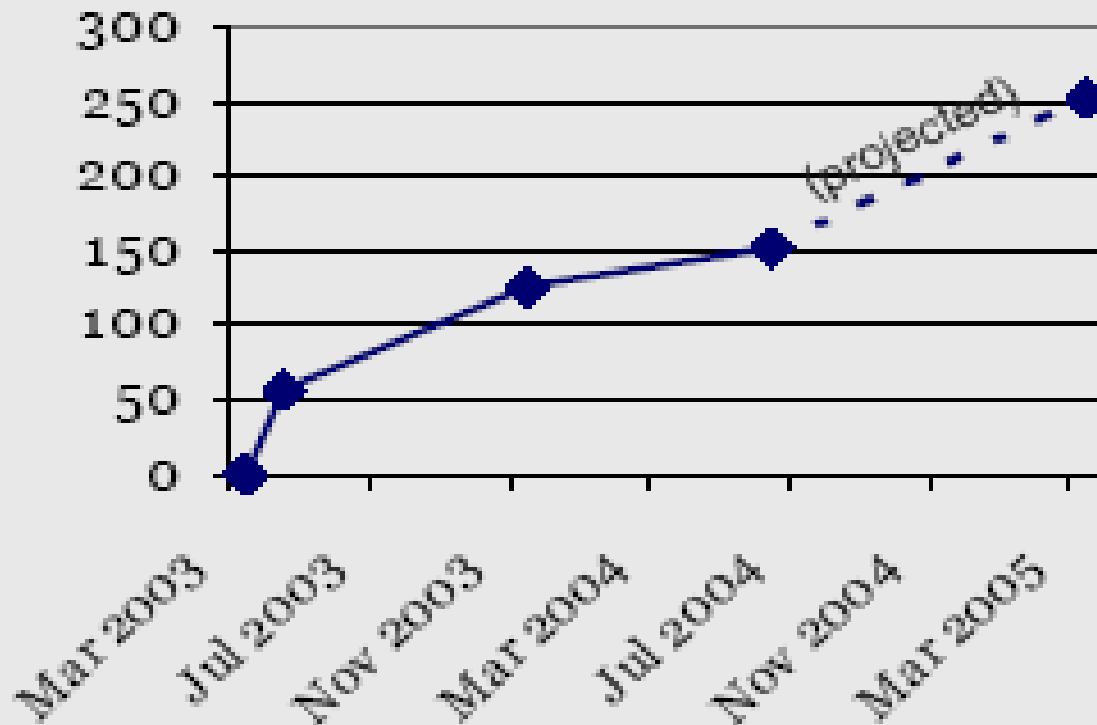
	<u>Right decision</u>	<u>Mistake</u>
	(%)	(%)
March 2003	71	22
December 2003	67	26
April 2004	57	35
October 2004	46	51
August 2005	43	53
March 2006	44	54
February 2007	39	59

Mounting Costs of war

- **Status of Army National Guard recruitment:**
down 30%
- **Average number of attacks by Iraqi resistance per week**
425
- **General James Helmly, Army Reserve Commander, told Pentagon in December 2004 that his men were**
'degenerating into a broken force'

Mounting Costs of Iraq War

Cost of War, in Billions of \$



Mounting Costs of Iraq War

Early Estimates

Cumulative cost to US (including Emergency spending bill now before Senate)

US\$320 billion

Phase out costs of intervention in Iraq and Afghanistan will add another

US\$371 billion

These two wars since 9/11 will have cost:

US\$811 billion

Comparable figure for total cost of Vietnam war

US\$549 billion

Mounting Costs of Iraq War

Later Estimates (\$ billion)

	Conservative	Moderate
Spent to date	251	251
Future spending	200	271
VA costs	40	57
Costs for brain injuries	14	35
Disability payments	37	122
Demobilisation costs	6	8
Increased defence spending	104	139
Interest on debt	98	386
TOTAL	750	1269

Source: Joseph Stiglitz (Columbia) & Linda Bilmes (Harvard) Jan 2006

Lessons of Iraq War

- International response has effectively deprived world's only superpower of mantle of legitimacy and legality
- Lack of legitimacy / legality has weakened US capacity to bring invasion & occupation of Iraq to a successful conclusion
- Policy of unilateralism has proved costly in military, diplomatic, financial and political terms, and costs are continuing to rise
- Public opinion = increasingly polarised inside US
- Rising price of oil & increasingly unpredictable energy stakes seem likely to reduce the room for manoeuvre available to this and future US administrations