

The Mounting Costs of Empire

The Iraq War

March 2003 – December 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
March 2007 – Dec 2007	663	39	9
Total (as of 24 May 2008)	4081	176	136

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 – Jan 2007	5548
Feb 2007 – 10 Dec 2007	4610
Total (as of April 2008)	29978

Source: *Iraq Coalition Casualties Count* (<http://icasualties.org/oif/> sighted 12 December 2007)

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

Further Withdrawals

UK	800 troops withdrawn between march and May 2005
Netherlands	Down from 1345 to 4 (July 2005)
Bulgaria	End of 2005
Ukraine	Mid-October 2005
South Korea	First 1000 troops withdrawn mid-2006
Italy	Italian contingent withdrawn September 2006
Japan	The last 280 of the original 600 medics and engineers withdrawn July 2006
Lithuania	Last remaining troops withdrawn 9 August 2007
UK	Troops to be reduced to 2500 by Spring 2008
Poland	New Government announces withdrawal by end of 2008
Australia	New government (November 2008) announces withdrawal of combatant forces by mid-2008

Mounting Costs of war

Estimated Number of insurgents in Iraq:

- November 2003: 5,000 fighters
- August 2006: 40,000 fighters & 160,000 supporters

(Estimate by Iraqi Intelligence http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/4268904.stm)

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

New York Times 26 September 2006

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/4268904.stm

Mounting Costs of Iraq War

Iraq & Related budget appropriations (\$b)

CRS Report for Congress 9 November 2007

<http://www.fas.org/sqp/crs/natsec/RL33110.pdf>

Operation & Total	FY01 & FY02	FY03 ^a	FY04 ^b	FY05 ^b	FY06	FY07	Enacted: FY01-FY07 Supp. ^c	FY08 Req. ^d	Cum.: FY01-FY08 Req. ^d
Iraq	0.0	53.0	75.9	84.6	101.9	133.2	448.6	158.3	606.9
OEF	20.8	14.7	14.5	20.9	19.1	36.8	126.8	36.6	163.4
Enhanced Security	13.0	8.0	3.7	2.1	0.8	.4	28.0	0.4	28.4
Unallocated	0.0	5.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	5.5	0.0	5.5
TOTAL	33.8	81.1	94.1	107.6	121.8	170.4	608.8	195.3	804.2

Costs 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 not paid dividends
 - US has paid dearly for it already, and costs are rising sharply
- ✱ Public opinion = increasingly polarised inside US
- ✱ Rising price of oil & increasingly unpredictable energy stakes will greatly reduce the room for manoeuvre available to this and future US administrations