

TIMELINE OF OIL/VIOLENCE SUMMARY - IRAQ -

http://www.ringnebula.com/Oil?Timeline-Iraq_040903c.htm

COLD WAR YEARS:

The existence of Middle Eastern oil - a strategic commodity, drove the United States to block Soviet influence in the region via the shifting of its support among several regional dictators - including Saddam Hussein in the 1960s.

During the early 70s, as petroleum's value increased markedly, Iraq moved to nationalize the resource. The US responded by shifting its support away from Hussein in Iraq, concentrating instead on Iran - where the nationalization of oil resources had earlier prompted a CIA backed coup that replaced the offending regime with the shah of Iran.

With the end of the 1980s' Iran-Iraq war, Iraq found itself deeply in debt. Hussein sought to fund the rebuilding of Iraq (and to prop his regime) with its treasured oil resource, currently estimated at 250 billion barrels. The US, in turn, pushed Kuwait and other Gulf states to increase oil exports, thereby driving down oil prices and drastically reducing Iraq's only means of income.

THE 1990's:

Through official and public diplomatic channels, the US State Department signaled Hussein that an attack on Kuwait would not be met with significant reprisal. Immediately following Iraq's attack on Kuwait, however, the US feigned shock, and prodded the UN to act. The ensuing attack severely damaged Iraq's civilian infrastructure - including water purification and electrical generation plants. Thousands of Iraqi troops were killed during the relatively brief battle, and thousands more were killed as Iraqi troops retreated. The Iran-Iraq war abruptly ended.

President Bush, Sr. called upon anti-Hussein forces within Iraq to rise, implying US support for their efforts would be forthcoming. A sixty to one-hundred-thousand anti-Hussein militia took up arms; they were completely abandoned by Bush, and were slaughtered by forces loyal to Hussein via

the use of helicopters ok'ed for use within the US ceasefire agreement. Hussein thereby acted knowingly, or unknowingly, on the US's behalf by limiting Iraq's militia - the same militia that, a decade later, would have resisted US forces now occupying their country.

What followed was a decade of "sanctions" resulting in a weakened Hussein regime, and the deaths of between 500,000 and 1,000,000 Iraqi children - for want of food, of safe drinking water, and of basic medications.

POST 9-11:

The final chapter (to date) involved a sudden focus shift away from Osama bin Laden in the post 9/11 years to Saddam Hussein, with the official war drumbeat stating Hussein was preparing to attack his neighbors or the US with WMD (weapons of mass destruction) - despite there being no evidence that such weapons or means existed. Following a huge military buildup in the region, a number of UN inspectors were sent into Iraq to seek out chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons, and/or the vehicles that could be used to deliver those weapons; NONE WERE FOUND. Inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the UN publicly stated they had found no evidence for the existence of this capability, but that inspections should continue to fully verify the absence of threat.

Without evidence of Iraqi "Weapons of Mass Destruction," without International authority to act in a preemptive manner, and without the required UN Security Council resolution to proceed, the United States and a handful of other governments (a "Coalition of the Willing") attacked Iraq while the world watched in horror.

With control of Afghanistan (and plans for a trans-Afghanistan oil/gas pipeline) and now Iraq's two-hundred-fifty billion barrels of oil, international oil corporations have captured a significant portion of the world's oil reserves, all as the world weeps, and the climate warms. Who's next? ... Syria, Iran, Saudi Arabia....
