

Reasons Why Americans Criticize or Do Not Support the War in Iraq

1. Justifications for involvement

- a. Disagree with the stated reasons:
 - i. To Guard Against Weapons of Mass Destruction
 - ii. To Counter Iraq's Role in, and ties to, Terrorism
 - iii. To Enforce the Gulf War cease fire and/or U.N. resolutions
 - iv. To Protect Human Rights and End Regime's Mass Murder
 - v. To Advance Democracy in order to:
 1. Counter-act radical Islamofascism
 2. Expand U.S. mission of spreading liberty
- b. Disbelieve those presenting above reasons
- c. Disagree retroactively with justifications upon further evidence

2. Intensity of involvement

- a. Believe more allies are required for military action
- b. Believe U.N. approval is required for military action
- c. Believe more diplomacy and/or sanctions should be pursued
- d. Believe U.N. inspection process should continue
- e. Disagree with all-out occupation / toppling of govt. / nation building

3. Cost of involvement

- a. Physical: fatalities and casualties among military and civilians
- b. Financial (in general, or in relation to other priorities)
- c. Time and Attention
 - i. domestic issues
 - ii. other foreign threats like Taliban, Iran, North Korea
- d. Diplomatic standing
- e. Chaos within Iraq during transition
 - i. Disrupted employment and refugees
 - ii. Disrupted economy
 - iii. Disrupted government services and utilities
 - iv. Political uncertainty
 - v. Civil unrest

4. Technicalities of involvement

- a. Seeking a more specific "declaration of war" by Congress
- b. Disagree with idea of a "pre-emptive attack," rather than a retaliatory strike
- c. Structural objections, such as demographic makeup of Armed Forces

5. Tactical Strategy

- a. Disagree with battle plan
 - i. Roll-out of the initial attack(s)
 - ii. Clearing and holding of areas
 - iii. Plan for ultimate victory or "exit strategy"
- b. Disagree with troop levels
- c. Disagree with distribution or allocation of forces
- d. Disagree with strategic priorities
 - i. Securing of areas or assets
 - ii. Rebuilding of sectors, areas
- e. Disagree with rebuilding and/or political strategy
 - i. Such as De-Bathification of army, govt.
 - ii. Training of Iraqi units
 - iii. Continued occupation during transition

6. Execution of strategy

- a. Communication
 - i. Strategy
 - ii. Goals
 - iii. Status
- b. Competency of leadership and command
- c. Competency of front line troops and civil servants
 - i. Abuses such as Abu Ghraib

7. Miscellaneous reasons

- a. Emotional
 - i. Exposure to the realities of war (video, photos, stories)
 - ii. Personal loss
- b. Political
 - i. Driven by political pressure
 - ii. Driven by opinion polls
- c. Religious
 - i. Pacifism
 - ii. Differing view of a “just war”
 - iii. Biblical interpretation of eternal unrest in the Middle East
- d. Irrational
 - i. Cowardliness
 - ii. Conspiracy theories
 - iii. Unfounded beliefs about Iraq and Iraqis
- e. Ideological
 - i. Anti-Americanism
 - ii. Anti-Nationalism
- f. Other
 - i. Exposure to enemy propaganda
 - ii. Exposure to media bias