

1991-2003, Iraq: The War Between the Bushes

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Press for Conversion!

1991

Jan.: President George Bush encouraged Iraqi Kurds and Shi'ites to "force Saddam Hussein the dictator to step aside." They were slaughtered then by the thousands¹ when the U.S. denied rebels access to captured Iraqi weapons and allowed Iraqi helicopters to attack them.²

Apr. 6: "Operation Provide Comfort I": A humanitarian mission provided food and shelter to internally displaced Kurds in northern Iraq.

July 24: "Operation Provide Comfort II": This show of force deterred Iraqi attacks on U.S.-protected Kurds in the north and delivered tons of supplies. It ended December 31, 1996.³

1992

Apr.: A CIA-backed coup by the Free Iraq Council failed. Coup leader, Sa'd Salih Jabr, a U.S. citizen, blamed the failure on the U.S. for leaking information to other Iraqi groups.⁴

June: Iraqi National Congress (INC) established by 300 delegates in Vienna, led by Ahmed Chalabi.⁵ (Chalabi, who left Iraq in 1958⁵ and was convicted in Jordan of money laundering in the early 1990s, is a good friend of U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney.⁶)

Aug. 26: "Operation Southern Watch" was launched. It has been in effect ever since to impose the "No Fly Zone" over southern Iraq.⁷

Between 1992 and October 1994, 21,668 U.S. troops were deployed to enforce the no-fly zone and the Maritime intercept operation.⁸

1993

Jan. 13: Over 100 U.S., UK and French warplanes launched a punitive air assault on Iraqi targets in the illegally imposed "southern no fly zone."

Jan. 17: 46 U.S. cruise missiles destroyed 8 Baghdad buildings allegedly related to Iraq's nuclear program.⁹

Some civilians were killed when a U.S. missile struck Baghdad's Al Rasheed Hotel during an international conference of Islamic leaders. The Pentagon apologized for the "accident." When New York's World Trade Center was bombed a month later, a CIA analyst speculated it could be revenge.¹⁰



George Bush, Sr. and Bill Clinton
on Jan. 20, 1993, at Pres. Clinton's inauguration.

June 26: *An alleged assassination plot against former President Bush was the pretext for firing 23 cruise missiles at Baghdad. At least seven missiles hit residential neighbourhoods, killing civilians, including Leila al-Attar, a world-renowned Iraqi artist.*

June 27: *On his way to church, Clinton said: "I feel quite good about what transpired. I think the American people should feel good." He also said the attack "was essential to send a message to those who engage in state-sponsored terrorism and to affirm the expectation of civilised behaviour among nations."*

Jan. 21: The day after his inauguration, Bill Clinton said the U.S. would continue George Bush Sr.'s policy on Iraq. Over the following days, weeks, months and years, U.S. warplanes continued to bomb Iraq.¹¹

June 26: 23 U.S. cruise missiles were fired at Baghdad from warships in the Persian Gulf. An alleged assassination plot against former President Bush was a pretext for this onslaught. The Clinton administration did not wait for a Kuwaiti court's verdict and was not troubled by reports that the suspects' confessions were extracted by torture. Washington admitted that about seven missiles missed their targets, killing civilians in residential neighbourhoods, including Leila al-Attar, a world-renowned Iraqi artist.

June 27: On his way to church, President Clinton said: "I feel quite good about what transpired. I think the American people should feel good."¹² Clinton also said the attack "was essential to send a message to those who engage in state-sponsored terrorism and to affirm the expectation of civilised behaviour among nations."¹³

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"Operation Provide Comfort II" continued with attacks on dozens of Iraqi airports, air defence and radar sites, some with cluster bombs.

"Southern Watch" continued attacks on dozens of Iraqi positions.¹⁴

1994

The U.S.-backed Iraqi National Accord (INA), carried out terror attacks in Iraq to impress the CIA and "destabilize" Hussein's regime. Targets included a Ba'ath newspaper office and a Baghdad cinema, which killed civilians. The INA was the CIA's preferred Iraqi terrorist group

as it was led by Iraqi military officers seeking merely to replace Hussein with a new dictator.⁴

Oct.: "Operation Vigilant Warrior": After Iraqi ground troops began to move toward Kuwait, 29,000 U.S. troops were moved into region.⁸

1995

Apr. 14: The UN Security Council, under U.S. pressure, adopted the so-called "Oil-for-Food" resolution. Its humanitarian provisions were largely nullified when many billions of dollars worth of humanitarian supplies were prevented from reaching Iraq by U.S. and UK vetoes. Iraq was effectively denied full benefit of its own oil revenues. Meanwhile, the U.S. had ac-

cess to Iraqi oil as “compensation” to U.S.-friendly claimants.¹⁵

Mar. 4: The U.S.-backed Iraqi National Congress (INC), launched an offensive against the Iraqi government to overthrow Saddam Hussein. The INA convinced the U.S. to withdraw its support and denied promised air cover for the offensive. The INC then divided into factions which, especially the Kurdish ones, began fighting each other. This U.S. betrayal led to deep resentment. The INC and several factions still receive U.S. funding and assistance. The INC will likely form the U.S.-imposed puppet regime.¹⁶

“Operation Vigilant Warrior II” was another buildup of U.S. forces.¹⁷

1996

June 26: An attempted coup, organized by the INA (coordinated in part by CIA operatives in UNSCOM), failed when 120 plotters were arrested. Most were executed, by Iraq regime.⁵

Iraqi exiles and refugees were trained and armed in northern no-fly zone to descend on Baghdad. Sympathetic army generals were cultivated to assassinate Hussein, and efforts to destabilize Iraq began – such as random bombing of public places. The plot collapsed, because many Kurds backed Saddam and turned on the U.S.-backed faction. CIA agents in Kurdistan abandoning allies, documents and tons of equipment. This catastrophic failure led to the firing of CIA chief John Deutch.⁶

After this coup was crushed, the INA lost most of its Iraqi operatives, but continued terror operations, largely against rival Iraqi opposition groups, even those also backed by the U.S.

Aug. 31: After Iraqi forces were invited into the northern Iraq by a Kurdish faction (KDP), the Iraqis successfully took the town of Irbil from a different Kurdish faction (the PUK).

Sept. 3: “Operation Desert Strike”:
At least 44 cruise missiles fired at Iraq.

Dec. 31: “Provide Comfort II” ended and was replaced with “Northern Watch” to enforce the illegally-imposed northern “no-fly zone” and the Kurdish autonomous zone.

“Southern Watch” continued, with attacks on various Iraqi radar stations.⁷

“Operation Pacific Haven”:
6,500 Iraqi Kurds were relocated to Guam.⁸

1997

Nov.: “Operation Phoenix Scorpion I”:
Supported the deployment of warplanes to the Persian Gulf region to prepare for coercive airstrikes.¹⁸

1998

Jan.-Dec.: “Operation Intrinsic Action I-III” included deploying 1,500 U.S. and Kuwait troops.⁸

Feb.: UN Sec.-Gen. Kofi Annan successfully negotiated a new weapons-inspection agreement with Iraq, but the U.S. and UK worked to undo the deal by urging the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution to justify war. The Council refused.¹⁹

“Operation Desert Thunder”:
This large-scale deployment of air, land and sea forces flexed enough muscle to successfully intimidate Iraq.²⁰

“Phoenix Scorpion II” was a large deployment of U.S. forces to Iraq.²¹

Oct. 31: U.S. Congress passed the “Iraq Liberation Act,” giving nearly \$100 million to groups attempting to overthrow Saddam.²²

Nov.-Dec.: “Phoenix Scorpion III and IV” deployed even more U.S. forces to prepare for “Desert Fox.”²³

Dec. 16-19: “Operation Desert Fox,” the most massive bombing campaign against Iraq since 1991, was launched by the U.S., without UN authorization, supposedly to destroy Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction. Targets included a residential area on Baghdad’s outskirts, the Tikrit and Baghdad Teaching Hospitals, Tikrit’s main grain silo, a Basra oil refinery, the Baghdad home of Saddam’s daughter, the Baghdad Museum of Natural History and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, which distributes food.¹⁵

“Desert Fox” was launched after Iraq exposed U.S. spies among UN weapons inspectors (later admitted by the U.S.). The UN pulled out inspectors just before the bombings.²⁴

For most of the next year, U.S. and UK warplanes struck Iraq every day.²⁵ “Desert Fox” deployed 29,000 U.S. and 1,500 UK troops.⁸

Dec.: “Operation Shining Presence”:
U.S. troops went to Israel in case Iraq retaliated for “Desert Fox.”²⁶

“Northern Watch” and “Southern Watch” continued with U.S. forces attacking Iraqi sites.¹⁹



Brigadier-General
William Looney

“If they turn on their radars we’re going to blow up their goddam SAMs [Surface to Air Missiles]. They know we own their country. We own their airspace... We dictate the way they live and talk. And that’s what’s great about America right now. It’s a good thing, especially when there’s a lot of oil out there we need.”

1999

Jan. 7: “U.S. officials said that American spies worked undercover on teams of UN arms inspectors,” “Spied on Iraq Under UN Cover, Officials Now Say,” *New York Times*.)

The U.S. and UK continued to bomb Iraq on a near daily basis. In the first eight months of 1999, warplanes on 10,000 missions dropped over 1000 bombs and missiles on 400 targets. Hundreds were killed or wounded.

August: The operation’s director, Brig. Gen. William Looney gloated: “If they turn on their radars we’re going to blow up their goddam SAMs [Surface to Air Missiles]. They know we own their country. We own their airspace... We dictate the way they live and talk. And that’s what’s great about America right now. It’s a good thing, especially when there’s a lot of oil out there we need” (*Washington Post*).

The reason given for the raids was Iraq’s refusal to allow the return of UN weapons inspectors.¹³

“Southern Watch” and “Northern Watch” continued with dozens of air strikes against Iraqi air defence sites. Some “Southern Watch” attacks caused casualties, for example:

Jan. 25: The U.S. bombed residen-

tial neighborhoods, like Al Jumhuriya, Basra, killing 18 civilians and wounding at least 59. Some 12 houses completely destroyed. One missile entered Abadan, Iran, without casualties.

Feb. 28: U.S. forces attacked and severed the Iraq-Turkey oil pipeline, between Kirkut in north Iraq to Ceyhan in south Turkey. An attack on an oil pumping station killed one and wounded two. Other attacks killed Mohsin Ibrahim, a 3-year-old boy, and Mohammad Hussein, a shepherd.

Mar. 1: More than thirty 2,000 lb. bombs were dropped on an oil pipeline control system near Mosul and the Ain Zahla residential area. Hans von Sponeck, coordinator of UN humanitarian operations in Iraq, said that U.S. airstrikes were impeding relief work.²⁷

2000

The U.S. and UK continued bombing. Between 1998 and 2000, over 24,000 combat missions were flown over Iraq.

October: “*Operation Desert Spring*” (formerly “*Intrinsic Action*”): 2,300 U.S. troops and aircraft carrier battle group were training in Kuwait.⁸

2001

Jan. 16: Tenth anniversary of the war on Iraq. The UN estimated that 4,500 children were dying per month from disease and malnutrition due to sanctions. Over the past decade, U.S. warplanes flew over 280,000 flights in Iraq. In the past two years, over 300 Iraqis were killed in these bombings.²⁵

Feb. 16: The U.S. and UK launched another massive bombing campaign using nearly 100 aircraft, as the new Bush administration laid plans for a major war for “regime change.”¹⁵

Feb.: “*Operation Desert Falcon*” 2,850 U.S. troops deployed to Kuwait. “*Operation Desert Focus*” 2,850 U.S. troops deployed to Kuwait.⁸

“*Northern Watch*” and “*Southern Watch*” continued with dozens of strikes. “*Southern Watch*” strikes including the following:

Feb. 11: 17 residential buildings hit in Basra and its power grid wiped out.

Feb. 16: Attacks on Baghdad killed at least two and wounded at least eight civilians when houses and small shops were hit. This provoked demonstrations in Baghdad and condemnation from France and other countries.²⁸

2002

Spring: U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defence, Paul Wolfowitz, told the CIA to investigate Hans Blix, the chief UN arms inspector in Iraq.²⁹

Sept.: A U.S. resolution submitted to the UN called for “no-fly” zones, “no-drive” zones and “exclusion zones” to be established by U.S. forces. Security Council members, except the U.S. and UK, believed the U.S. sought a “fig-leaf” to justify war against Iraq.

Oct.: The U.S. Congress authorized President Bush to make war on Iraq.¹⁵

Sept.-Oct.: 100 U.S. and UK warplanes did ‘secret’ bombing raids against Iraq that surpassed the attacks of the previous eight months.¹³

“*Northern Watch*” continued with dozens of attacks including some causing casualties, including:

Aug. 27: Mosul’s civilian airport was attacked.

“*Southern Watch*” continued with dozens of attacks including:

July 23: Civilian neighbourhoods in Wasit and Qadisiya provinces were attacked, killing one and wounding 22.

Aug. 20: More neighborhoods attacked wounding three civilians.

Sept. 5: In the largest air operation since “*Desert Fox*” over 100 U.S. and UK warplanes attacked an Iraqi airport 240 miles west of Baghdad.

Sept. 25-27: Basra’s civilian airport hit again, as were homes in Al Kufa.

Oct. 3: Nassiriya city was bombed, killing five civilians and wounding 11.

Oct. 10: The third U.S. attack on Basra’s civilian airport.

Dec. 1: Southern Oil Company offices in Basra were hit, killing four workers and wounding 27.

Dec. 18: 500,000 propaganda leaflets dropped.³⁰

By the end of the year the U.S. had 100,000 troops in the region.¹³

2003

The U.S. and UK talked openly of invading Iraq, flouting the will of the UN. The U.S. threatened the UN that if it did not approve military action, it would be discredited. While UN weapons inspectors were in Iraq, hundreds of thousands of U.S. and UK troops were sent to the region. Iraq gave the UN a huge document detailing their weapons but over 60% was removed by the U.S. without permission.¹³

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