

Operation Iraqi Freedom

On March 19, 2003, American and British forces began Coalition bombing of Iraq—"Operation Iraqi Freedom." The belligerents involved were United States, Great Britain, Australia, Poland, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) vs. Shia and Sunni factions Komala Islami Kurdistan (Islamic Society of Kurdistan)—a terrorist/guerrilla group.



The U.S. gave several reasons for the war and occupation of Iraq—revenge for 9-11, destroying Al Qaeda, weapons of mass destruction, regime change from Saddam Hussein, bringing democracy to Iraq. The U.S. did not anticipate the consequences of disbanding the Iraqi army and the antipathy between the Sunnis and Shia. Torture at Abu Ghraib, improper use of force by contractors like Blackwater, and hostile Iraqi attitudes have caused American public opinion to overwhelmingly determine that the invasion and occupation of Iraq was unnecessary.

U.S. Occupation continues.