

THE COST OF WAR.

IT'S BEEN OVER FOUR YEARS SINCE THE START OF "OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM," AND THERE IS STILL NO END IN SITE. ALL THE PRETEXTS FOR THE WAR HAVE TURNED OUT FALSE, AND THE "DEMOCRACY" IN IRAQ IS RIDDLED WITH CORRUPTION AND SECTARIAN DIVIDES. THE BLAME FOR CONTINUING THE WAR REGARDLESS OF ITS OBVIOUS LACK OF PROGRESS AND SKYROCKETING PUBLIC DISAPPROVAL MUST BE PLACED SQUARELY OUR POLITICAL LEADERS—DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS ALIKE. WHAT FOLLOWS IS A COMPREHENSIVE BREAKDOWN OF THE COSTS OF THIS BIPARTISAN FOREIGN POLICY.

THE HUMAN TOLL

Casualty Count:

US casualties: 3,564
 Michigan casualties: 136
 Coalition forces from other countries: 281
 Iraqi military/police casualties: 7,075
 *Iraqi civilian casualties : 71,200 – 500,000+
 Journalists: 184



Irreparable Damage:

26,350 U.S. troops have been wounded in Iraq, and the amputation rate is nearly double that of previous wars. More than 1,300 soldiers have lost a limb. Physical injuries aside, there's mental trauma to think about as well. The Veterans Administration estimates that 1 in 5 Iraq vets suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Without Bail:

The U.S. currently holds more than 18,000 detainees in Iraq, 8,000 of whom have been jailed for a year or more. As they are not considered traditional prisoners of war they are denied the right to legal aid and do not require a trial or conviction.

Desperate Wanderers:

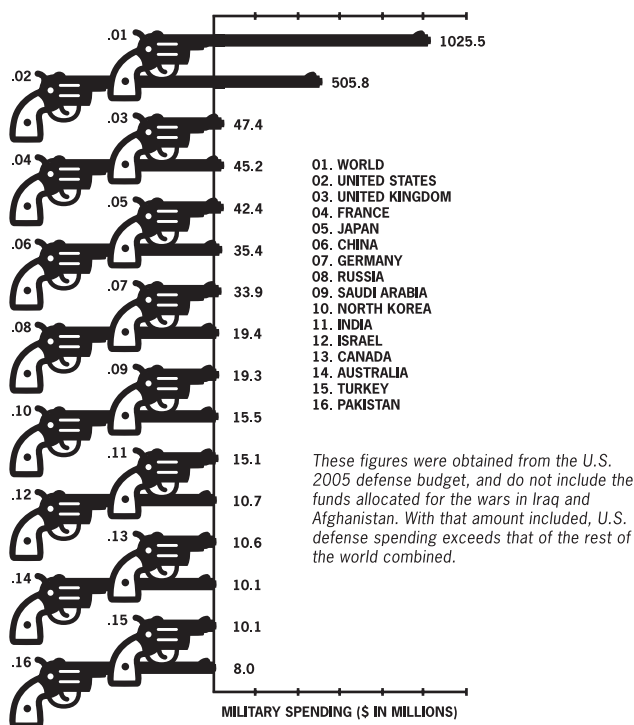
The Iraq War has created a refugee crisis. About 3,000 now flee the country daily, and Saudi Arabia is building a 560-mile fence to hold them at bay. So far 1.6 million have been displaced within Iraq, and as many as 1.8 million have left the country. Some 700,000 have relocated to Jordan and 60,000 live in Sweden. And despite having a hand in their displacement, a paltry 202 were allowed into the U.S. last year.

Figures as of June, 2007. Sources: DoD via iCasualties.org, IraqBodyCount.net, Brookings Institution, and Reporters Without Borders.

*Estimated. As there is no official count of civilian casualties, these figures are based on deaths reported by the news and surveys conducted in Iraq, and may be much higher.

MILITARY SPENDING: 2004-2005 WORLDWIDE EXPENDITURES

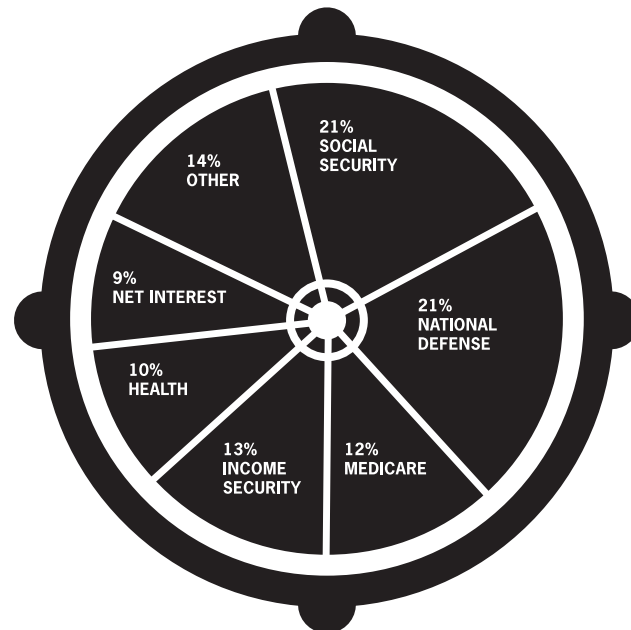
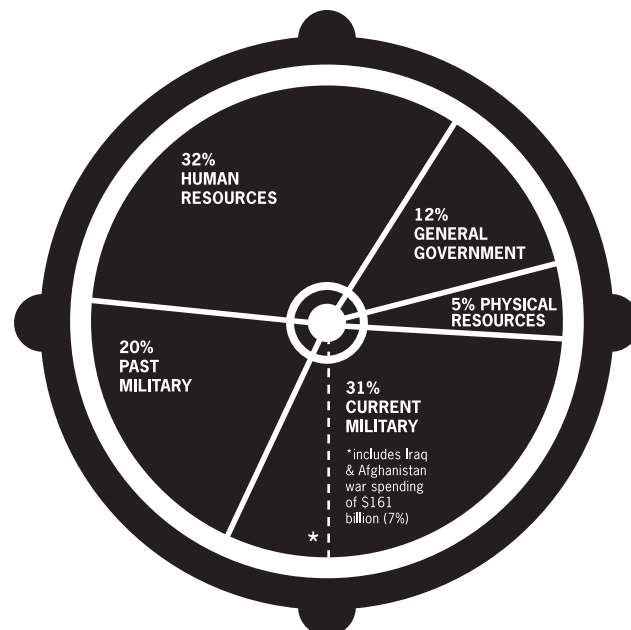
Compiled by Winslow T. Wheeler, Director, Straus Military Reform Project, and Brett Lincoln, Research Assistant



PAY LATER

Bad Estimates:

In the run-up to the invasion in 2003, the Pentagon's projected estimate of the total cost of the war was along the lines of \$50 billion. White House economic advisor Lawrence Lindsey predicted that the cost of the war would be closer to \$200 billion. Lindsey was subsequently fired. It's hard to say what the overall cost of the war will be when said and done, but one study by Columbia University economist Joseph E. Stiglitz and Harvard lecturer Linda Bilmes projects the long term costs of the war at over \$2 trillion. The war currently costs the U.S. \$275 million per day.



The lower pie chart is the government's view of the budget. This is a distortion of how income tax dollars are spent because the expenses of past military spending are not distinguished from nonmilitary spending. The chart on top depicts a more accurate representation of how federal income tax dollars are spent. For a more detailed explanation, visit www.warresisters.org.

PAY LATER

Total Cost:

- Total cost of the war in Iraq: \$500 billion and counting
- Cost of war for Michigan: \$12 billion and counting

Instead We Could Have:

- hired 7.5 million additional public school teachers for one year.
- insured 260 million children for one year.
- provided 21 million students four-year scholarships at public universities
- built 3.9 million additional housing units.

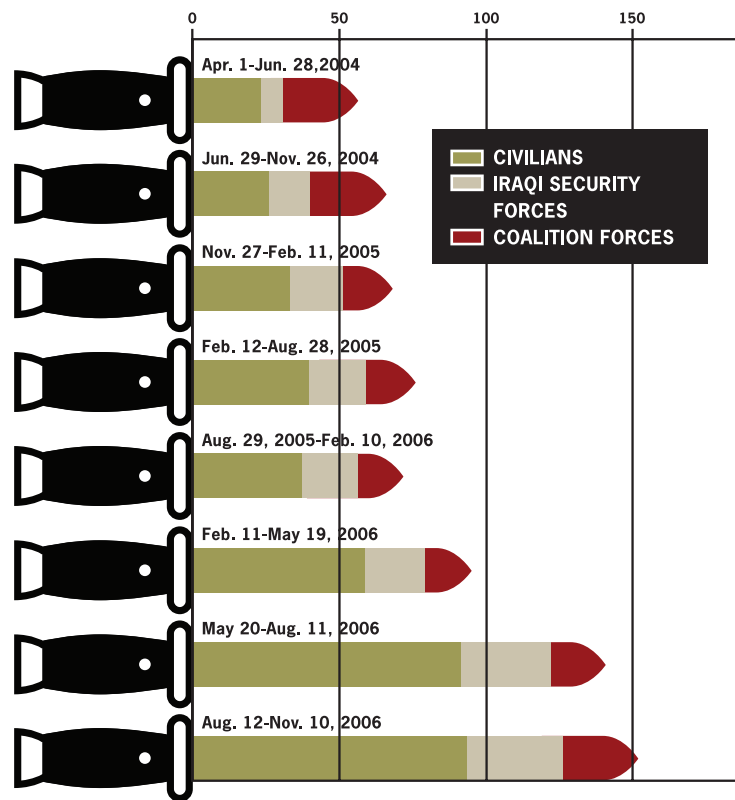
Sources: Center for Defense Information, National Priorities Project (costofwar.com), Congressional Research Service, and "The Economic Costs of the Iraq War: An Appraisal Three Years After the Beginning of the Conflict," By Joseph E. Stiglitz and Linda Bilmes.

VIOLENCE ON THE RISE

Iraq Effect:

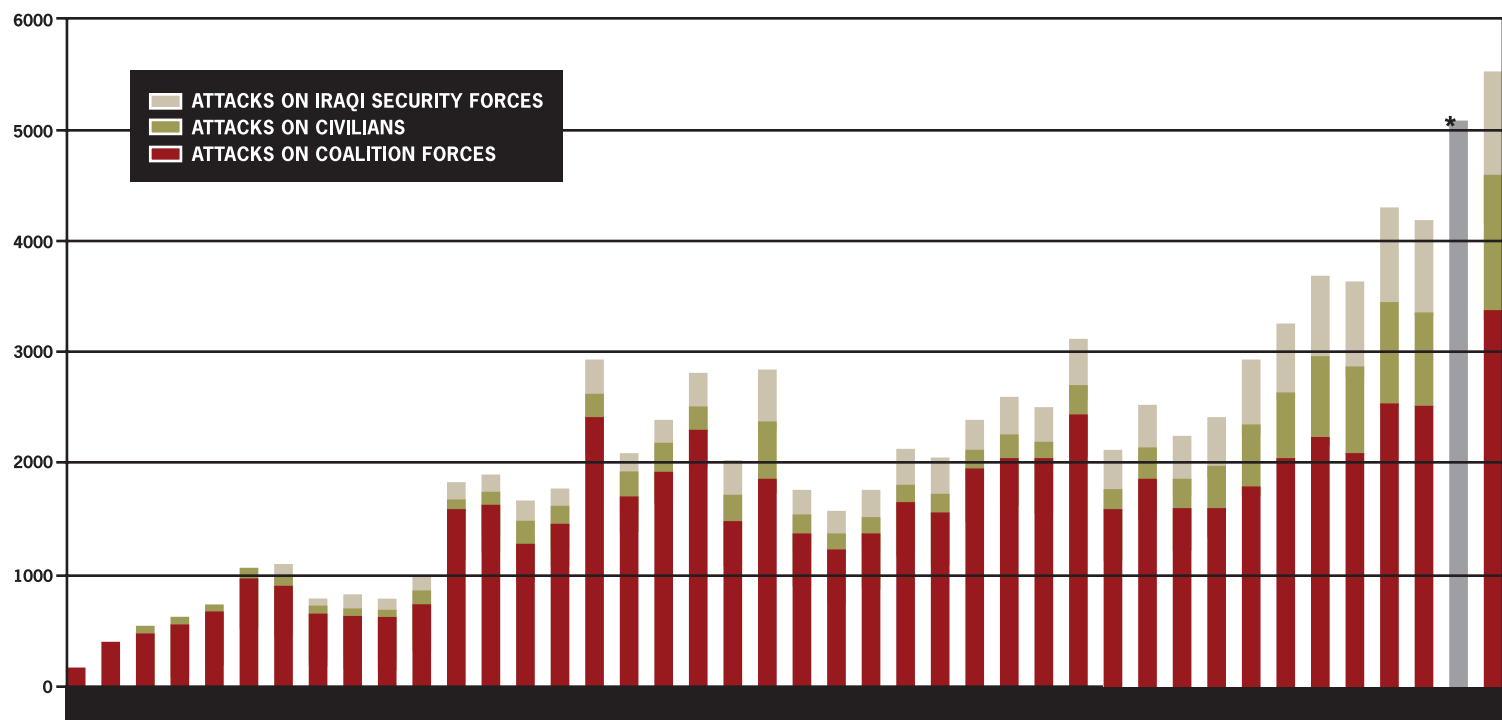
Any way you spin it, violence in Iraq is growing. More attacks mean more deaths. And perhaps unsurprisingly, the war has caused an increase in terrorist attacks worldwide. An exclusive study conducted by *Mother Jones* magazine that analyzed the MIPT-RAND Terrorism database (terrorismknowledgebase.org), found a 607 percent rise in the average annual incidence of jihadist terrorist attacks since the start of the war. In turn, the fatality rate of such attacks increased by 237 percent. Expectedly, the bulk of this rise occurred within Iraq. But even after excluding Iraq and Afghanistan, the study showed a 35 percent rise in attacks, with a 12 percent rise in fatalities. For more on the study, visit: motherjones.com/iraq_effect.

AVERAGE DAILY CASUALTIES



Sources: Government Accountability Office (Attacks); Department of Defense (Casualties).
 Graphs Compiled by Mother Jones magazine.

INSURGENT AND MILITIA ATTACKS



*Breakdown for September 2006 is classified by the Pentagon

THE COST OF WAR.

RECONSTRUCTION AND CORRUPTION

Footing the Bill:

- Cost of Iraqi reconstruction: \$34.1 billion and counting
- Cost of rebuilding post-WWII Germany: \$30.3 billion (2006 dollars)
- Amount of U.S. aid unaccounted for: \$8.8 billion
- Amount requested to build and operate the new U.S. embassy in Iraq: \$1.3 billion
- Amount Pentagon has requested to construct bases in Iraq: \$806 million

Lack of Progress:

Figures from 2006 demonstrate that many basic quality of life indicators have still not reached their pre-war levels. Baghdad gets an average of 4 hrs. and 30 minutes of electricity a day (as opposed to 16-24 hrs. before the war), and the estimated cost of meeting Iraq's energy demand is \$20 billion. The situation isn't looking good for women either. One of the 66 women in the Iraqi Parliament told the UK Observer, "This is the worst time ever in Iraqi women's lives. In the name of religion and sectarian conflict they are being kidnapped and killed and raped."

- Number of people with access to potable water
Prewar: 12.9 million / Postwar: 9.7 million
- Number of people with sewage system access
Prewar: 6.2 million / Postwar: 5.6 million
- Number of physicians working in Iraq
Prewar: 34,000 / Postwar: 24,000
- Children attending school
Prewar: nearly 100% / Postwar: 30%

Unaccounted:

Stuart Bowen, The Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction (SIGUR), has stated that a "virtual pandemic" of corruption in Iraq costs the country \$4 billion annually. Smuggling oil is a popular way for the insurgency to create revenue, and nearly \$9 billion in Iraqi oil revenues are unaccounted for – almost as much as Saddam infamously stole from the Oil-for-Food program. More than 14,000 guns paid for out of U.S. reconstruction funds are also missing, and may be in the hands of insurgents or sectarian death squads.

Overcharged:

One third of building contracts in Iraq are under criminal investigation. Kellogg, Brown and Root – a subsidiary of Halliburton – was found to have overcharged the U.S. military around \$60 million for fuel deliveries, but it still is awarded more contracts. One California company, Parsons, had its contract terminated last year when it was discovered to have completed only six of the more than 140 healthcare centers it was contracted to build.

Sources: www.sigur.mil, Congressional Research Service, Brookings Institution, US Department of State

SPOILS OF WAR

Rigged Economy:

While Iraq may have been given sovereignty on June 28, 2004, in reality the U.S. is still in charge. The so-called "100 Orders" of L. Paul Bremer III, former head of the now-defunct Coalition Provisional Authority, remain embedded in the framework of the Iraqi constitution. Order No. 39 allows for privatization of Iraq's 200 state-owned companies and 100 percent foreign ownership of Iraqi businesses. Order No. 17 grants foreign contractors full immunity from Iraq's laws. Order No. 40 allows foreign banks to control 50 percent of Iraq's assets. Order No. 49 drops the tax rate on corporations from a high of 40 percent to a flat 15 percent. For a full list of the orders visit: www.cpa-iraq.org/regulations/#Orders.

Oil:

It's no secret that Iraq possesses the third largest oil reserves in the world. What most people don't know is that the Iraq Hydrocarbon Bill – the passing of which is viewed as an important benchmark for progress by both main political parties – is largely based on a draft framework for Iraq's oil policy put together by the State Department's "Future of Iraq" project a year before the invasion. The law will allow for foreign control over Iraq's oil production without stipulations for reinvestment in Iraq's economy or the hiring of Iraqi workers. What's even more shocking is that a draft of the bill was shown to the U.S. government, major oil companies and the International Monetary Fund months before it was given to the Iraqi Parliament.

PUBLIC OPINION

Loss of Goodwill:

For most of the 20th century, the U.S. image abroad has been relatively positive. But an annual Pew Research Group poll that measures global goodwill toward the U.S. clearly demonstrates the results of the conflict in Iraq. In the U.K., favorable ratings have dropped from 83% in 1999 to 56% in 2006. The pattern is similar in France, down from 62% to 39%, Germany 78% to 37%, and Spain 50% to 23%. In Muslim countries that have traditionally allied with the U.S., such as Turkey and Indonesia, there have been dramatic downturns. In Indonesia favorable ratings for the U.S. have dropped from 75% to 30%, and in Turkey from 52% to 12%.

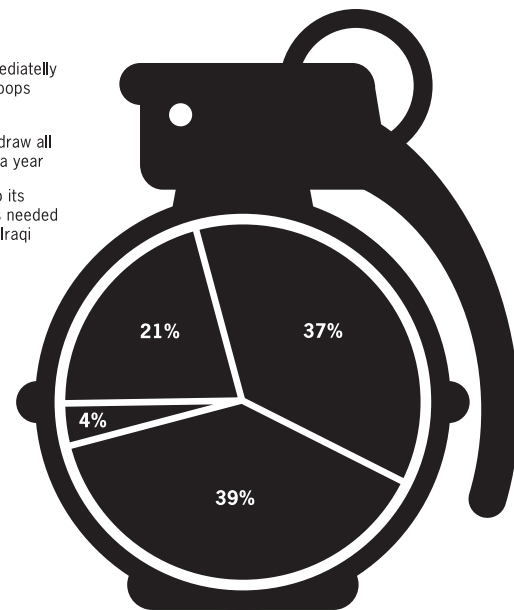
U.S.

21% The U.S. should immediately begin to withdraw all its troops from Iraq

37% The U.S. should withdraw all its troops from Iraq within a year

39% The U.S. should keep its troops in Iraq as long as is needed to turn control over to the Iraqi government

4% No opinion



Results from March of 2007. Source: CNN; Opinion Research Corp.

IRAQ

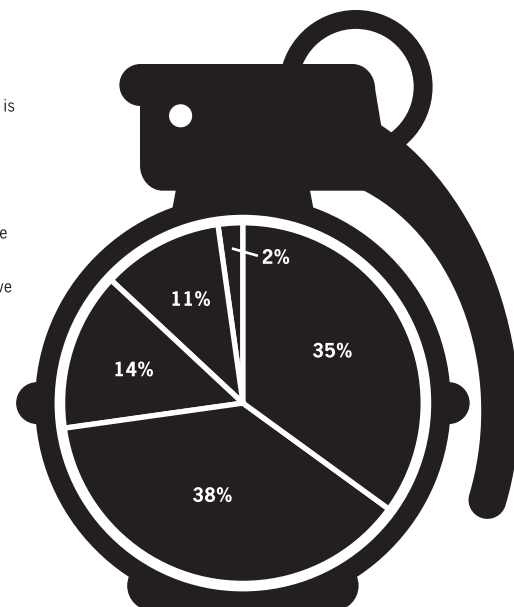
35% Leave now

38% Remain until security is restored

14% Remain until the Iraqi government is stronger

11% Remain until the Iraqi security forces can operate independently

2% Remain longer but leave eventually



Results from March of 2007. Source: D3 Systems, polling for the BBC, ABC News, ARD German TV and USA Today.