**Sources: US & Iraq Relations**

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| **Document 1:** **The President's Ultimatum to Iraq and Opposition to It, Speech by President George W. Bush on March 17, 2003:** [Primary Sources: Perspectives of the Iraq War](https://knilt.arcc.albany.edu/images/b/b3/Perspectives_of_the_Iraq_War_Primary_Sources.pdf)The danger is clear. Using chemical, biological or, one day, **nuclear weapons**, obtained with the help of Iraq, the **terrorists** could fulfill their stated ambitions and kill thousands or hundreds of thousands of innocent people in our country or any other....For the last four and a half months, the United States and our allies have worked within the **Security Council** to enforce that council's longstanding demands. Yet some permanent members of the Security Council have publicly announced that they will veto any resolution that compels the **disarmament** of Iraq. These governments share our assessment of the danger, but not our resolve to meet it.... The United Nations Security Council has not lived up to its responsibilities, so we will rise to ours.... **Saddam Hussein** and his sons must leave Iraq within 48 hours. Their refusal to do so will result in military conflict, commenced at a time of our choosing... Many Iraqis can hear me tonight in a translated radio broadcast. And I have a message for them. If we must begin a military campaign, it will be directed against the lawless men who rule your country and not against you. As our **coalition** takes away their power, we will deliver the food and medicine you need. We will tear down the apparatus of terror. And we will help you to build a new Iraq that is prosperous and free.... The **terrorist** threat to America and the world will be diminished the moment that **Saddam Hussein** is disarmed. Our government is on heightened watch against these dangers. Just as we are preparing to ensure victory in Iraq, we are taking further actions to protect our homeland.... Unlike Saddam Hussein, we believe the Iraqi people are deserving and capable of human liberty. And when the **dictator** has departed, they can set an example to all the **Middle East** of a vital and peaceful and self-governing nation.... The power and appeal of human liberty is felt in every life and every land. And the greatest power of freedom is to overcome hatred and violence and turn the creative gifts of men and women to the pursuits of peace. That is the future we choose. Free nations have a duty to defend our people by uniting against the violent. And tonight, as we have done before, America and our allies accept that responsibility. |

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| **Document 2: On March 19, 2003, Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia delivered a speech on the floor of the U.S. Senate that opposed the march to war:** [Primary Sources: Perspectives of the Iraq War](https://knilt.arcc.albany.edu/images/b/b3/Perspectives_of_the_Iraq_War_Primary_Sources.pdf)I have watched the events of recent months with a heavy, heavy heart. No more is the image of **America** one of strong, yet caring peacekeeper. The image of America has changed. Around the globe, our friends mistrust us, our word is disputed, our intentions are questioned. Instead of reasoning with those with whom we disagree, we demand obedience or threaten retaliation. Instead of isolating **Saddam Hussein**, we seem to have isolated ourselves. We proclaim a new policy of prevention (of terrorism) which is understood by few and feared by many. We say that the United States has the right to turn its firepower on any corner of the globe which might be suspect in the **war on terrorism**. We declare that right without the permission of any international body. As a result, the world has become a much more dangerous place. We flaunt our superpower status with arrogance. We treat **UN Security Council** members like ingrates who offend our princely dignity by lifting their heads from the carpet. Valuable alliances are split… There is no credible information to connect Saddam Hussein to **9/11**. The twin towers fell because a worldwide terrorist group, **Al Qaeda**, with cells in over 60 nations, struck at our wealth and our influence by turning our own planes into missiles, one of which would likely have slammed into the dome of this beautiful Capitol except for the brave sacrifice of the passengers on board. But this Administration has directed all of the anger, fear, and grief which emerged from the ashes of the **twin towers** and the twisted metal of the Pentagon towards a tangible villain, one we can see and hate and attack. And villain he is. But he is the wrong villain. And this is the wrong war.... What is happening to this country? When did we become a nation which ignores and berates our friends? When did we decide to risk undermining **international order** by adopting a radical and doctrinaire approach to using our awesome military might? How can we abandon diplomatic efforts when the turmoil in the world cries out for diplomacy? Why can this President not seem to see that America's true power lies not in its will to intimidate, but in its ability to inspire? |
| **Document 3: Excerpts from a joint statement on March 5 of the foreign ministers of France, Germany, and Russia:** [Primary Sources: Perspectives of the Iraq War](https://knilt.arcc.albany.edu/images/b/b3/Perspectives_of_the_Iraq_War_Primary_Sources.pdf)Our common objective remains the full and effective disarmament of Iraq....We consider that this objective can be achieved by the peaceful means of inspections. We moreover observe that these inspections are producing increasingly encouraging results: The destruction of the Al Samoud missiles has started and is making progress. Iraqis are providing biological and chemical information. The interviews with Iraqi scientists are continuing.... We firmly call for the Iraqi authorities to cooperate more actively with the inspectors to fully disarm their country. These inspections cannot continue indefinitely. We consequently ask that the inspections now be speeded up.... the inspectors have to present without any delay their work program accompanied by regular progress reports to the **Security Council**. This program could provide for a meeting clause to enable the Council to evaluate the overall results of this process. In these circumstances we will not let a proposed resolution pass that would authorize the use of force.**Excerpt from a statement by French President Jacques Chirac on March 18:**The United States has just issued an **ultimatum** to **Iraq**. Whether...it's a matter of necessary disarmament of Iraq or of the desirable change of regime in that country , there is no **justification** for a unilateral decision to resort to war....It is a grave decision, at a time when Iraq's disarmament is under way and the inspections have proved to be a credible alternative method of **disarming** that country. It is also a decision that jeopardizes future use of methods to resolve peacefully crises linked to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Iraq does not today present an immediate threat warranting an immediate war. |

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| **Document 4: Excerpt from the White House report to Congress on its reasons for war on Iraq:** [Primary Sources: Perspectives of the Iraq War](https://knilt.arcc.albany.edu/images/b/b3/Perspectives_of_the_Iraq_War_Primary_Sources.pdf)"**Iraq** both poses a continuing threat to the national security of the United States and international peace and security in the **Persian Gulf** region and remains in material and unacceptable breach of its international obligations by, among other things, continuing to possess and develop a significant chemical and biological weapons capability, actively seeking a nuclear weapons capability, and supporting and harboring terrorist organizations.... Further delay in taking action against Iraq will only serve to give **Saddam Hussein's** regime additional time to further develop weapons of mass destruction to use against the United States, its citizens, and its allies. The United States and the UN have long demanded immediate, active, and unconditional cooperation by Iraq in the disarmament of its weapons of mass destruction. There is no reason to believe that Iraq will disarm and cooperate with inspections to verify such **disarmament**, if the U.S. and the UN employ only diplomacy and other peaceful means.... The use of force against **Iraq** will directly advance the war on terror and will be consistent with continuing efforts against international terrorists residing and operating elsewhere in the world.... In the circumstances described above, the **President** of the United States has the authority--indeed, given the dangers involved, the duty--to use force against Iraq to protect the security of the American people and to compel compliance with **Security Council** resolutions."**Excerpt from John Brady Kiesling's letter of resignation to Secretary of State Colin Powell. Kiesling is a career diplomat who has served in U. S. embassies:** Until this administration it had been possible to believe that by upholding the policies of my **President** I was also upholding the interests of the **American people** and the world. I believe it no longer. The policies we are now asked to advance are incompatible not only with **American values** but also with **American interests**. Our fervent pursuit of war with Iraq is driving us to squander the international legitimacy that has been America's most potent weapons of both offense and defense since the days of **Woodrow Wilson**. We have begun to dismantle the largest and most effective web of international relationships the world has ever known. Our current course will bring instability and danger, not security.... This administration has chosen to make **terrorism** a domestic political tool....We spread ...terror and confusion in the public mind, arbitrarily linking unrelated problems of terrorism and Iraq....We should ask ourselves why we have failed to persuade more of the world that a war with **Iraq** is necessary....Have we indeed become blind, as **Russia** is blind in Chechnya, as **Israel** is blind in the **Occupied Territories**, to our own advice, that overwhelming military power is not the answer to terrorism?....Why does our President condone the swaggering, contemptuous approach to our friends and allies this administration is fostering, including among its most senior officials? ... I am resigning because I have tried and failed to reconcile my conscience with my ability to represent the current U.S. administration. |