

war is a force that gives us meaning

by Chris Hedges



- home
- about
- ▼ events
- primer
- ▼ more resources

- [cost of war](#)
- [dissent](#)
- [draft history](#)
- [war on terror](#)

Chapters

- [1. the myth of war](#)
- [2. the plague of nationalism](#)
- [3. the destruction of culture](#)
- [4. the seduction of battle & the perversion of war](#)
- [5. the hijacking & recovery of memory](#)
- [6. the cause](#)
- [7. eros & thanatos](#)

Reading Room

(*) special sections on war

- [BBC*](#)
- [War in Context*](#)
- [World War 4 Report*](#)
- [Living with War Today*](#)
- [Fox: War on Terror](#)
- [London Times](#)
- [MNSBC: Iraq](#)
- [New York Times: World](#)
- [NPR](#)
- [TruthOut](#)
- [Wall Street Journal](#)
- [Washington Post](#)

Chapter 2: The Plague of Nationalism



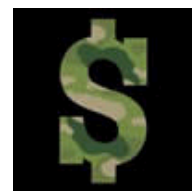
Lurking beneath the surface of every society, including ours, is the passionate yearning for a nationalist cause that exalts us, the kind that war alone is able to deliver. It reduces and at times erases the anxiety of individual consciousness. We abandon individual responsibility for a shared, unquestioned communal enterprise, however morally dubious.

(Hedges, *War Is a Force* p.45)

Cost of War

War Funding

Stiglitz, Joseph, & Bilmes, Linda. (2008). *The Three Trillion Dollar War*. W. W. Norton.



"Apart from its tragic human toll, the Iraq War will be staggeringly expensive in financial terms. This sobering study by Nobel Prize winner Joseph E. Stiglitz and Harvard professor Linda J. Bilmes casts a spotlight on expense items that have been hidden from the U.S. taxpayer, including not only big-ticket items like replacing military equipment (being used up at six times the peacetime rate) but also the cost of caring for thousands of wounded veterans--for the rest of their lives. Shifting to a global focus, the authors investigate the cost in lives and economic damage within Iraq and the region. Finally, with the chilling precision of an actuary, the authors measure what the U.S. taxpayer's money would have produced if instead it had been invested in the further growth of the U.S. economy. Written in language as simple as the details are disturbing, this book will forever change the way we think about the war." See <http://threetrilliondollarwar.org/>.

[Congressional Research Services Report, Code RL33110](#). (2008, May). *The Cost of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Other Global War on Terror Operations Since 9/11*.

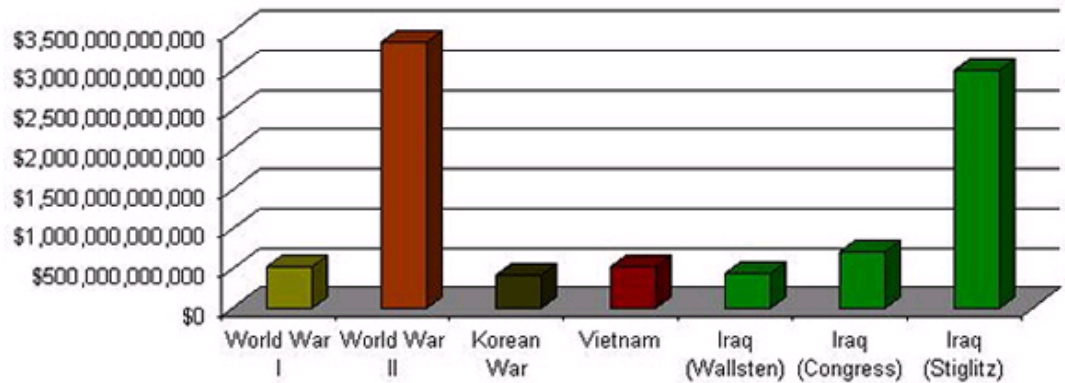
"With enactment of the FY2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act (H.R. 2764/P.L. 110-161) on December 26, 2007, Congress has approved a total of about \$700 billion for military operations, base security, reconstruction, foreign aid, embassy costs, and veterans' health care for the three operations initiated since the 9/11 attacks: Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) Afghanistan and other counter terror operations; Operation Noble Eagle (ONE), providing enhanced security at military bases; and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)"

Wallsten, Scott, & Kosec, Katrina. (2005, September). *The Economic Costs of the War in Iraq*. The AEI-Brookings Joint Center for Regulatory Studies

"... our best estimates suggests that the direct economic costs to the U.S. through August 2005 are about \$255 billion, about \$40 billion to coalition partners, and \$134 billion to Iraq. These estimates suggest a global cost to date of about \$428 billion. The avoided costs, meanwhile, are about \$116 billion. We estimate that the expected total net present value of the direct costs through 2015 could be \$604 billion to the U.S., \$95 billion to coalition partners, and \$306 billion to Iraq, suggesting a global total expected net present value of about \$1 trillion. The net present value of total avoided costs, meanwhile, could be about \$429 billion." Wallsten & Kosec (2005)

"The total economic cost of the war in Iraq to a family of four is a shocking \$16,500 from 2002 to 2008. When the war in Afghanistan is included, the burden to the American family rises to \$20,900. The future impact on a family of four skyrockets to \$36,900 for Iraq and \$46,400 for Iraq and Afghanistan when all potential costs from 2002 to 2017 are included."

Iraq Cost estimates, see above. Second costliest war in American history, after WWII.
 Vietnam (1972\$)--about \$111 billion, \$562 billion in today's dollars
 Korean (1953\$)--about \$54 billion, \$417 billion in today's dollars
 WWII (1945\$)--about \$288 billion, \$3.36 trillion in today's dollars
 WWI (1918\$)--about \$32 billion, \$513 billion in today's dollars



Presidential Candidates 2008: Plans for Iraq

Candidate	Permanent bases?	Withdraw?	Iran?
<u>Barr (Libertarian)</u>	No	Yes, as soon as possible	?
<u>McCain (Republican)</u>	Yes	Only after Iraq has been secured; will make no commitments	Diplomacy first
<u>McKinney (Green)</u>	No	Yes, immediately	No
<u>Obama (Democrat)</u>	No	Yes, as soon as possible (as region is secured)	Diplomacy first

Supporting the Iraq War

McCain, John. (2008, July 22). Getting Iraq Right: How to Keep Progress Going. *New York Post*.

Bush Adviser Says Iraqi Timeline "Very Dangerous". (2008, July 20). *Thomas Reuters*.

Statement by Press Secretary on Iraq. (2008, July 18). *White House Release*.

Victory in Iraq. (2008, July 18) *The New York Sun*.

Kagan, Frederick, Kagan, Kimberly, & Keane, Jack. (2008, July 16). The New Reality in Iraq. American Enterprise Institute for Foreign Policy & *Wall Street Journal*.

Four Months for Victory. (2008, July). Vets for Freedom.

Krauthammer, Charles. (2008, June 13). Make the Election About Iraq. *The Washington Post*.

Herman, Arthur. (2008, June 9). Eat Crow, Iraq War Skeptics. *New York Post*.

Al-Qaeda on Ropes: Bin Laden is Losing. (2008, June 2). *Manchester Union Leader*.

Gardiner, Nile. (2008, March 18). Iraq Five Years On: The Coalition Is Winning the War Against Al-Qaeda. The Heritage Foundation.

O'Hanlon, Michael. (2008, March). Reality and the Iraq War. *USA Today*.

Media/Movie:

[The Case for War: In Defense of Freedom](#). Directed by Brook Lapping for PBS.

Still Supporting the War? Debates.

Rivkin, David & Cirincione, Joseph. [Are We Winning in Iraq?](#) *LA Times*.

[Should the US Have Attacked Iraq? The Pro-Con Arguments](#). *ProCon.org*

Media Websites on the War

- [PBS--Iraq in Transition](#)
- [Washington Post--America at War](#)
- [New York Times--Iraq, Afghanistan, & the Reach of War:](#)
- [NPR--The Iraq War](#)
- [The Heritage Foundation--Progress in Iraq: Facts and Analysis](#)
- [CNN -- War in Iraq](#)
- [The Nation -- Iraq War](#)
- [Iraq War Debate Document Center](#)
- [The White House -- Renewal in Iraq](#)
- [FOX News -- Iraq](#)

Dissent

Historically, individuals have found ways to leave the war, both legally and illegally.

"I'm aware of the press reports about what he said. I have not seen the actual transcript of the show itself. But assuming the press reports are right, it's a terrible thing to say, and it unfortunate. And that's why-there was an earlier question about has the President said anything to people in his own party-they're reminders to all Americans that they need to watch what they say, watch what they do. This is not a time for remarks like that; there never is." (Ari Fleischer, press briefing on Sept. 26, 2001. Quoted on [Slate](#).)

Definitions

Draft

Formally known as *military conscription*, the compulsory military service which can be required of males in the United States ages 18-26. In this country, registration for possible conscription is implemented by the Selective Service System, and is obligatory as imposed by the Military Selective Service Act. In 1973 the The United States discontinued the draft and became an all volunteer military. To reinstate the draft in the future, it would take an act of Congress.

- [Selective Service - Classification](#)
Classification is the process of determining who is available for military service and who is deferred or exempted. Classifications are based on each individual registrant's circumstances and beliefs. A classification program would go into effect when Congress and the President decide to resume a draft.

Draft Dodgers

A draft dodger is one who attempts to avoid conscription. Also known as: draft evader, or draft resistor. Several ways of "dodging" are leaving the country, going into hiding, wrongfully claiming conscientious objector status, or open resistance. Reasons for dodging can be as high minded as objections to the particular conflict or warfare in general, and as self-serving as to avoid danger.

Conscientious Objectors

According to the Selective Service System, "a conscientious objector is one who is opposed to serving in the armed forces and/or bearing arms on the grounds of moral or religious principles." To apply, the draftee must explain his beliefs before a local board, with the option of providing written documentation and personal appearances by people he knows. The statement might explain how he arrived at his beliefs and how they influence his life. To qualify, conscientious objections must NOT be politics, expediency, of self-interest.

Substitute service can be either Non-Combatant Service, with training/duties that will not include using weapons; or Alternative Service, with local employers in jobs such as conservation, caring for the very young or very old, education, and health care. "Length of service in the program will equal the amount of time a man would have served in the military, usually 24 months."

- [The Objector - What the Government Doesn't Want You to Know About Draft Registration](#)
The phrase "the draft" conjures up images from the Vietnam War: weekly body counts, young men making agonized decisions. More than 20 years later, no one is actually being drafted. But young people still have important decisions to make about military service.
- [May 15 - International Conscientious Objection Day](#) (UK Indymedia) May 15, 2008.

Desertion

Desertion is a soldier's abandonment of duty without permission from a superior. In the United States, desertion is measured by intent not to return, intent to avoid hazardous or important responsibility, or accepting another military position without separation from the current one.

- [Don't Believe the Desertions Story](#) (Washington Post) November 19, 2007.
The only clear trend is the increasing willingness of both the pro-military and anti-war factions to appropriate any statistic in their effort to make their case and, in the process, divide our society.



[Memorial to Deserters](#) by Hannah Stuetz Menzel. Dedicated November 19, 2005 Ulm, Germany

"Desertion is not reprehensible, war is."
"Here lived a man who refused to shoot at his fellow men, honor to his memory!" - Kurt Tucholsky, journalist, 1925



[Deserters' Memorial](#) by Nikolaus Kernbach. Dedicated August 30, 2007.

The plaque at the foot of the memorial reads, "*Dedicated to the deserters of all wars / Sculptor Nikolaus Kernbach, profile cut 1996/2001, stonemakers Treulieb Stuttgart / The Initiative for a Desserters Memorial in Stuttgart, 2007.*"

Chickenhawks

This political epithet describes a supporter of the war who has never personally been in a war, especially if that person actively avoided draft or other military service.

Draft History

Although the policy of conscription has been around since the American Revolution's militias, the Selective Service has only existed since 1940 when President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Selective Training and Service Act, establishing peacetime draft. For 25 years (1948-1973) men were drafted to fill vacancies in the armed forces. (*About.com*). For 5 years (1975-1980), compulsory registration was even suspended, reinstated by President Carter in response to Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

- [PBS - Conscription Timeline](#)

Vietnam Draft Timeline

1960 - Nixon runs on an end-the-draft campaign

1965 - Opposition to the war in Vietnam leads to protests against the draft. For the first time since the Civil War, there are anti-draft demonstrations, particularly on college campuses and at military centers. In its *U.S. v. Seeger* decision, the Supreme Court broadens the definition of conscientious objection to include religious beliefs outside the Christian, Jewish or Muslim traditions.

1966 - In response to anti-war sentiment, President Johnson appoints a special study commission to recommend changes in the Selective Service structure.

1967-70 - Thousands of young men either destroy their draft cards or leave the country to avoid the draft.

1969: A year of upheaval

United States v. O'Brien rules that a criminal prohibition of burning a draft card is not a violation of first amendment rights to free speech.

President Nixon orders the "19-year-old draft": if a young man is not drafted at age 19, he will be exempt from future military service except in the event of war or national emergency. Deferrals are allowed for hardship cases, certain occupations, conscientious objectors, clergymen, and high school and college students. One year later Nixon will argue in favor of ending student deferments.

President Nixon orders a "random selection" lottery system for selecting men to serve in the war in Vietnam, changing the previous system of drafting according to age.

On December 1st, the first draft lottery since 1942 held in Washington DC for the following year for registrants born between January 1, 1944, and December 31, 1950. Radio, film, and live television coverage.

1970 - In *U.S. v. Welsh*, the Supreme Court adds sincerely held ethical and moral beliefs to the definition of allowable grounds for conscientious draft objection.

1973 - The 1967 Selective Service Act, extended through an act of Congress in 1971, expires, ending the authority to induct draft registrants.

1977 - President Carter pardons 10,000 draft evaders

- [Selective Service - Vietnam Lotteries](#)
- [Moving Towards Equity](#) (Time) September 26, 1969.

1980 - President Carter reinstates the Selective Service registration requirement in the summer of 1980.

Women

Women have never been drafted into military service in the United States. Women are not required to register by the Selective Service. In the 1980 case of *Rostker v. Goldberg*, the registration of women was examined by the Supreme Court.

The question of registering women was extensively considered by Congress in hearings held in response to the President's request for authorization to register women, and its decision to exempt women was not the accidental byproduct of a traditional way of thinking about women.

The case goes on to say since Congress decreed that a future draft would be precipitated by a need for combat soldiers, women who are unilaterally excluded from combat would not fill the need. Moreover, "Congress was entitled, in the exercise of its constitutional powers, to focus on the question of military need, rather than equity."

- [Selective Service Eyes Women's Draft](#) (NW Source) May 1, 2004.

Movies



[Stop-Loss](#) (2008) 112min USA Directed by Kimberly Peirce
Decorated Iraq war hero Sgt. Brandon King makes a celebrated return to his small Texas hometown following his tour of duty. He tries to resume the life he left behind. Then, against Brandon's will, the Army orders him back to duty in Iraq, which upends his world. The conflict tests everything he believes in: the bond of family, the loyalty of friendship, the limits of love and the value of honor. (Paramount Pictures)

Articles

- [Defending Civilization And The Myth of Radical Academia](#) (ZNet) July 15, 2002.
Bearing the melodramatic title *Defending Civilization: How Our Universities are Failing America and What Can Be Done About It*, the ACTA report lists exactly 115 examples of supposedly outrageous radical "responses" of the denizens of academe to 9-11 and the bombing of Afghanistan. Its authors claim to show that America's universities are dangerously out of step with basic American values and indeed the core values of Western Civilization.

Books

Mock, Melanie Springer *Writing Peace: The Unheard Voices of Great War Mennonite Objectors* (Studies in Anabaptist and Mennonite History, no. 40). (Pandora Press U.S.) 2003.

A fever of patriotism and paranoia was sweeping across America. If you did not enthusiastically wave the flag and wholeheartedly back the government's military actions across the ocean, you were suspected of being in league with the enemy--"if you are not for us, you are against us." Your troubles were compounded if you were a member of an ethnic group whose habits, accents, and surnames were different than your "American" neighbors and, worse, were the same accents and surnames as those people with whom the nation was at war. Your young men were removed from your communities against their will and taken to military camps, where they were interned until the end of the war and beyond. They suffered mental and sometimes physical abuse at the hands of their captors, and were reviled and cursed for their religious beliefs. This sounds like the atmosphere that has existed recently in the United States and the situation that exists currently in Abu Ghraib prison and other places where Iraqi men and women are being detained, but it's not. This is the situation that existed in America in 1917 and 1918, after President Wilson declared war on Germany. One of the ethnic groups under suspicion was the pacifistic Mennonites, most of whose members shared the Germanic surnames and sometimes the Germanic accents of their countries of origin. The young men forcibly removed from their homes and communities included the sons of these Mennonite families, drafted to fight in a war that their religion and upbringing taught them was contrary to the teachings of Jesus. When they arrived at the military training camps and stated their religious objections to aiding the military machine, they were cursed, had their religion impugned, and were sometimes physically assaulted and even threatened with death if they didn't agree to assume the uniform and take up arms. (*Mennonite Life*)

Music

- Country Joe & the Fish- Feel Like I'm Fixing To Die Rag (Next Stop Vietnam) (1967) from *I-Feel-Like-I'm-Fixin'-to-Die*
- Phil Ochs - Draft Dodger Rag (1965) from *I Ain't Marching Anymore*

Links

- DraftDodgers.org

"War on Terror"

Origin

Thrust into the spotlight by President Bush during the week following the 9/11 attacks, the phrase "War on Terror" (also known as the "War on Terrorism") originated long before today. Ian Lustick, author of *Trapped in the War on Terror* dates the very idea of American "War on Terror" back to the annexation of Texas "In the 1840's [when] a small but single-minded and powerful group of American politicians and activists engineered the annexation of Texas," as "this group of politicians was made mainly of Republican conservatives who used planned objectives to achieve a war to attain the outcomes they wanted." Joseph Wheelan's *Jefferson's War: The First War on Terror* dates the American usage of the concept back to 1800 with the invasion of foreign soil in the Barbary wars. More recently, with the words "This administration today, here and now, declares unconditional war on poverty in America," President Lyndon Johnson's State of the Union address of January 1964, foreshadowed the concomitant ideology of waging war on intangibles, echoed by Nixon's "War on Cancer" and "War on Drugs" in 1971.

Timeline [1960-2000](#) | [2001](#) | [2002](#) | [2003](#) | [2004](#) | [2005](#) | [2006-2008](#)

1960-2000

January 8, 1964 - President Johnson declares a "War on Poverty" in his State of the Union address beginning the onset of war-on-concepts from the American presidents in times to come.

August 27, 1986 - President Reagan signs an anti-terrorism law that bans arms sales to nations that support terrorism, and strengthens U.S. anti-terrorist measures. [Reagan Timeline](#)

2001

September 11 - Attacks are made on the World Trade Center and Pentagon by terrorists.

September 12 - Bush Declares War

President Bush announces, "The deliberate and deadly attacks which were carried out yesterday against our country were more than acts of terror. They were acts of war." [War Timeline](#)

September 14 - Congress Authorizes Military Response

Congress passes resolution authorizing President Bush "to use all necessary and appropriate force" against the perpetrators of the September 11 attacks, their sponsors, and those who protected them. The bill passes the Senate by a vote of 98-0 and the House by a vote of 420-1.

September 18 - The Justice Department publishes an interim regulation allowing non-citizens suspected of terrorism to be detained without charge for 48 hours or "an additional reasonable period of time" in the event of an "emergency or other extraordinary circumstance." The new rule is used to hold hundreds indefinitely until the USA Patriot Act passes in October.

September 20 - "Freedom and fear are at war." Bush Addresses joint session of Congress [Bush outlines his war plan](#) to a joint session of Congress. Just before he delivers [his speech](#), he instructs the military to begin planning for war. The president proposes a new Office of Homeland Security.

September 21 - Chief United States Immigration Judge Michael Creppy [issues a directive](#) instructing immigration judges to close cases that might be of "special interest" to the September 11 investigation to all members of the press and public.

October 7 - The military phase of the [War Against Terrorism begins](#) under the name "Operation Enduring Freedom" setup to dismantle the Taliban regime, harboring al Qaeda.

October 8 - Bush establishes the Office of Homeland Security in the Executive Office.

October 20 - The New York Times reports that, although 830 people have been arrested in the 9/11 investigation, there is no evidence that anyone in custody was a conspirator in the 9/11 attacks.

October 26 - Patriot Act signed "to deter and punish terrorist acts in the United States and around the world," known by its other title of ["Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism."](#)

October 31 - Ashcroft [announces](#) the creation of a Foreign Terrorist Tracking Force, which effectively institutionalizes his strategy of mass preventive detention of noncitizens in order to "enhance our ability to protect the United States from the threat of terrorist aliens."

November 13 - President Bush authorizes a Military Order establishing military tribunals to try suspected terrorists. Anyone held under the Military Order can be detained indefinitely without charge or trial.

December 4 - Senate holds hearings on 9/11 detainees. Ashcroft testifies that those who question his policies are "aiding and abetting terrorism," and goes largely unchallenged.

[TOP TIMELINE](#)

2002

January 9 - The White House [declares](#) that the Guantanamo detainees are, as "enemy combatants," not entitled to the protections accorded prisoners of war under the Geneva Conventions.

January 16 - Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld [says of the \(by now 80 or so\) detainees at Guantanamo Bay](#), "I do not feel the slightest concern at their treatment. They are being treated vastly better than they treated anybody else."

January 22 - A [memo](#) from Assistant Attorney General Jay S. Bybee argues that the War Crimes Act and the Geneva Convention did not apply to al Qaeda prisoners and that President Bush had constitutional authority to "suspend our treaty obligations toward Afghanistan" because it was a "failed state."

May 3 - A University of Michigan [poll](#) finds that a majority of Americans, post-9/11, would give up some civil liberties in the name of greater security.

July 16 - Terrorism Information and Prevention System (TIPS) announced. The program is to allow volunteers, whose routines make them well-positioned to recognize suspect activities, to report what they see to the Justice Department.

August 26 - The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit rules that the press and public must be allowed to witness immigration hearings for suspects detained in the Sept. 11 investigation, strongly rebuking the Bush administration for its policy of maximum secrecy in the war on terrorism. "Democracies die behind closed doors," wrote the senior judge in the court's opinion.

November 25 - President Bush signs the Homeland Security Act of 2002, establishing the Department of Homeland Security.

TOP TIMELINE

2003

March 11 - A federal appeals court rules that the 650 Guantanamo detainees have no legal rights in the United States and may not ask courts to review their detentions.

March 17 - Homeland Security Department commences Operation Liberty Shield, an increase in protective measures to defend the homeland coinciding with the commencement of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

March 19 - President Bush launches Operation Iraqi Freedom to end the regime of Saddam Hussein and its support of terrorism.

April 2 - House passage of the \$79 billion Wartime Supplemental Appropriations bill to provide crucial funding for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

May 1 - The Terrorist Threat Integration Center begins operations.

May 28 - Amnesty International Press Release: "The 'war on terror', far from making the world a safer place, has made it more dangerous by curtailing human rights, undermining the rule of international law and shielding governments from scrutiny. It has deepened divisions among people of different faiths and origins, sowing the seeds for more conflict. The overwhelming impact of all this is genuine fear -- among the affluent as well as the poor."

December 13 - Saddam Hussein is captured.

TOP TIMELINE

2004

January 5 - The ACLU warns that a new immigrant tracking program, known as US VISIT, would increase confusion among immigrants coming to America, and would primarily target Arabs and Muslims.

January 26 - A federal judge declares a portion of the USA Patriot Act unconstitutional. The section in question bars anyone from giving advice or assistance to groups designated as terrorist organizations. It is the first time a court has declared part of the Act unconstitutional.

April 20 - The Supreme Court begins hearing oral arguments on the status of detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The court gets ready to consider whether the United States government can hold foreign nationals as "enemy combatants" without hearings and without charges.

May 6 - Brandon Mayfield, a lawyer living in Oregon, is arrested after the FBI reportedly finds his fingerprints on a bag containing detonating devices in Madrid. Mayfield is held for two weeks as a material witness, without access to his family. Two weeks later, on May 21, Spanish authorities announce that the fingerprinting ID was incorrect.

June 28 - The Supreme Court decides three landmark cases in the war on terror: Of the three decisions, that of Hamdi et al v. Rumsfeld turned out to be the most significant.

The case concerned the fate of Esam Hamdi, an American citizen captured in Afghanistan and held in a Navy brig in South Carolina. The administration had argued that the president had the right to designate any American an "enemy combatant" without first consulting the courts. The Supreme Court's 8 to 1 majority opinion concluded that while the president could keep Hamdi away from the battlefield, that detention could last only until the end of "active combat operations in Afghanistan." After that time, Hamdi must be granted a trial and

legal counsel in order to contest his status as an "enemy combatant."

In *Rasul v. Bush*, the Supreme Court granted foreign nationals detained at Guantanamo the right to file lawsuits to contest both their detentions and conditions at the base.

In *Rumsfeld v. Padilla et al*, the court essentially punted, arguing that Jose Padilla should have brought his case before South Carolina, where he is being held indefinitely. Nevertheless, Padilla's case will likely resolve itself along the lines of *Hamdi*, meaning that Padilla will get to contest his status as an "enemy combatant" before civilian courts.

July 8 - President Bush vows to veto a Congressional spending bill if it includes an amendment to curb features of the Patriot Act. The amendment eventually fails on a 210-210 vote, with the Republican leadership holding the floor open for longer than the traditional 15 minutes in order to get the votes it needed. The amendment would have limited the Justice Department's ability to force book dealers, librarians, and others to surrender records.

September 21 - Yusuf Islam, Islam convert, peace activist, and singer known as Cat Stevens, is diverted on his flight from London to the United States. Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge accuses Islam of having an "unspecified relationship with terrorist activity." Islam was denied entry to the United States when the diverted aircraft landed in Maine. He is taken to Boston and Washington.

September 22 - Yusuf Islam is sent back home to London on another United flight from Dulles International Airport. US government officials determined he was on the government's "no-fly" antiterror list, however he was allowed to board the plane in Britain due to a spelling error. "Yousouf Islam" is on the no-fly registry, but the British passport of the former Cat Stevens has the name "Yusuf Islam". TSA alleges that Islam has links to terrorist groups, which he has denied. (*CNN*)

September 30 - A federal judge in New York rules unconstitutional a portion of the USA Patriot Act that allows the FBI to demand information from Internet service providers without judicial oversight or public review. (Most of Judge Victor Marrero's ruling, however, did not focus on the Patriot Act, but rather earlier statutes upon which the Patriot Act expanded.) John Ashcroft promises to appeal the decision.

November 17 - The Department of Homeland security requires that its 180,000 employees and contractors sign a secrecy pledge, covering sensitive but unclassified information.

December 18 - The U.S. government cuts the satellite feed of al-Manar, Hizbullah's television station. The administration declares the station a "terror organization."

TOP TIMELINE

2005

January 1 - The Washington Post reports that the administration is preparing long-range plans to hold indefinitely those detainees whom it does not want to set free or turn over to the courts.

January 18 - White House counsel Alberto Gonzales says that the CIA and other nonmilitary personnel are not bound by a 2002 presidential directive that pledged the humane treatment of prisoners in American custody. Gonzales also claims that a Congressional ban on cruel, unusual treatment had a "limited reach" and did not apply in all cases to "aliens overseas."

TOP TIMELINE

2006-2008

April 2007 - Democratic Presidential Debate

Six years after the 9/11 attacks, the term "war on terror" was fading from the accepted political lexicon. When NBC anchor Brian Williams asked the Democratic candidates to raise their hands if they "believe there is such a thing as a global war on terror," only half of the participants in the April 2007 Democratic debate raised their hands.

April 17, 2007 - British Shed "War on Terror" language

June 12, 2008 - Boumediene et. al. v. Bush, President of the United States

The Supreme Court strikes down the military commissions President Bush established to try suspected members of al-Qaeda, rejecting an anti-terrorism measure and the assertion of unchecked executive power. (*Washington Post*)

TOP TIMELINE

Timeline Links

- World News Atlas. [U.S. War on Terrorism Timeline](#) July 2001-present
- PBS Frontline. [Fighting on Two Fronts: A Chronology](#) September 2001- December 2001
- Information Warfare Site. [War on Terror Timeline](#) September 2001-September 2003
- Mother Jones. [War on Terror Timeline](#) September 2001-January 2005
- Mother Jones. [Lie by Lie: The Mother Jones Iraq War Timeline](#) August 1990-February 2008

Articles

- Washington Post: [Terrorized by 'War on Terror' How a Three-Word Mantra Has Undermined America](#)
- Anup Shah: [War on Terror](#)
- Noam Chomsky: [The New War Against Terror](#)
- NPR: [Defining the War on Terror](#)

Select "War on Terror" Speeches

- September 20, 2001 Speech: [Address to a Joint Session of Congress and the American People](#)
- November 11, 2005 Speech: [President Commemorates Veterans Day, Discusses War on Terror](#)
- February 16, 2006 Press Release: [President Requests \\$72.4 Billion for the President's War on Terror](#)
- April 10, 2006 Speech: [President Bush Discusses Global War on Terror](#)
- March 19, 2008 Speech: [President Bush Discusses Global War on Terror](#)

Board Games



[War on Terror Satirical Board Game](#) - British

Everyone starts with the best intentions. Then things start to get cramped. Then you notice your neighbour has more oil than you. Before long, war is waged, nukes are dropped, revolutions are fought and terrorists are doing your dirty work, before turning on you... This is the War on Terror, the boardgame: A quality boardgame for 2 - 6 players, lovingly illustrated and politically correct (in a very literal sense). Playing it will bring out the nastiest, greediest, darkest, most paranoid aspects of your character. It's all great family fun. (*War on Terror Board Game*) "You're either with them or against them...or sometimes both!"

Movies



2008 - [War, Inc](#) Release: limited May 2008, DVD October 14, 2008

A political satire set in Turaqistan, a country occupied by an American private corporation run by a former US Vice-President (Aykroyd). In an effort to monopolize the opportunities the war-torn nation offers, the corporation's CEO hires a troubled hit man (Cusack), to kill a Middle East oil minister. Now, struggling with his own growing demons, the assassin must pose as the corporation's Trade Show Producer in order to pull off this latest hit, while maintaining his cover by organizing the high-profile wedding of Yonica Babyyeah (Duff) an outrageous Middle Eastern pop star, and keeping a sexy left wing reporter (Tomei) in check. (*imdb.com*)

"We're in a constant state of war, Hauser. We kill our brothers, complete strangers, the guilty and the innocent. We are at war with our own hearts. Love is a cease-fire that's destined to fail. But, as I said, it does get us into tricky situations... sometimes the back of a garbage truck."



2007 - [Lions for Lambs](#)

Lions for Lambs begins after two determined students at a West Coast University, Arian and Ernest, follow the inspiration of their idealistic professor, Dr. Malley, and attempt to do something important with their lives. But when the two make the bold decision to join the battle in Afghanistan, Malley is both moved and distraught. Now, as Arian and Ernest fight for survival in the field, they become the string that binds together two disparate stories on opposite sides of America. In California, an anguished Dr. Malley attempts to reach a privileged but disaffected student who is the very opposite of Arian and Ernest. Meanwhile, in Washington D.C. the charismatic Presidential hopeful, Senator Jasper Irving, is about to give a bombshell story to a probing TV journalist that may affect Arian and Ernest's fates. (*imdb.com*)

"Do you want to win the War on Terror? Yes or no?"

Music

Songs About 9/11 And The War On Terror (Rhapsody)



These songs come from both sides of the political isle, a few are politically indifferent. You're sure to love some and you're sure to hate some. Most of them however, will move you in some way. - musicradish.com



Lullabies from the Axis of Evil (Harmony Ridge Music)

The way things are today, this is a daring and poignant recording. Daring, because the songs featured all come from countries that are in the headlines these days, usually in a negative way, all of them associated with pain and suffering. Poignant, because this is not about making a righteous stand: this is, first and foremost, a record of haunting music and a fusion of East and West of the utmost caliber. So, forget about rights and wrongs, dividing lines, preconceptions, enemies and friends, haves and have-nots. This is not a record about divisions or "I am holier than thou" attitudes. This is a record that uses music to do what music does best: express pure emotions, unite and make us feel and think. Although the pace is leisurely and the spirit melancholic, this is not a tortured record, but a soothing experience that uplifts and calms. (Nondas Kitsos, RootsWorld)

- On January 29, 2002, U.S. President George W. Bush gave his famous "State of the Union Address" to the American people wherein he launched the term "The Axis of Evil". In this speech, he pointed out Iran, Iraq, North Korea "and their allies", as being; . . .the enemies of the U.S. and the free, democratic world. This and other speeches, held by Bush and other leaders of the greatest power on the planet, made it clear that the "war on terrorism" following the events of Sept. 11. '2001. needed to identify nations -not only terrorist-cells-as the enemy.

Video Games



2006 - War on Terror - *Monte Cristo Multimedia, Digital Reality*

War on Terror is a real-time strategy game with a modern setting, 50 unique units, and three distinct campaigns.



2004 - Kuma/War: The War on Terror - *Kuma*

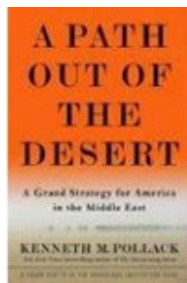
Kuma/War: The War On Terror is a compilation of missions that recreate critical battles in Iraq and Afghanistan. Visit the frontlines of the War On Terror, as you get on the ground in real military hot spots. FREE month of Kuma/War online service - 3 new missions delivered each month



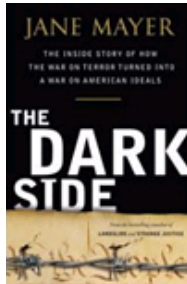
2003 - Fugitive Hunter: The War on Terror (PSP) - *Thames and Cosmos*

Originally picked up by Infogrames but later published by Encore, Fugitive Hunter is a realistic first-person shooter from the same team responsible for X-Files: Resist or Serve and Black Dawn. Set in modern day, War on Terror allows players to travel to locales such as Afghanistan, Utah, Paris, and Miami, as they follow a criminal trail that leads all the way to the Al-Kaeda madman Osama Bin Laden. Features include an extensive behind-the-scenes library of videos, a third-person hand-to-hand mini-game, and 11 different terrorist leaders to hunt down including Bin Laden himself. Available exclusively for the PlayStation 2.

Upcoming Books



Pollack, Kenneth M. *A Path Out of the Desert: A Grand Strategy for America in the Middle East*. (Random House). Release: July 15, 2008
The controversy over Iraq and the war on terror dominates "A Path Out of the Desert: A Grand Strategy for America in the Middle East" (Random House) by Kenneth M. Pollack, a leading policy analyst who believes promoting reform in the region is crucial to America's goals. (*LA Times*)



Mayer, Jane. *The Dark Side: The Inside Story of How the War on Terror Turned Into a War on American Ideals*. (Doubleday) Release: July 15, 2008. A dramatic and damning narrative account of how America has fought the "War on Terror" *THE DARK SIDE* will chronicle real, specific cases, shown in real time against the larger tableau of what was happening in Washington, looking at the intelligence gained—or not—and the price paid. In some instances, torture worked. In many more, it led to false information, sometimes with devastating results. For instance, there is the stunning admission of one of the detainees, Sheikh Ibn al-Libi, that the confession he gave under duress—which provided a key piece of evidence buttressing congressional support of going to war against Iraq--was in fact fabricated, to make the torture stop. (*Amazon.com*)



Hennessy, Peter. "The New Protective State: Government, Intelligence and Terrorism." (Continuum) Release: July 10, 2008
"The New Protective State" examines the effect of anti-terrorism policies on civil liberties. (*LA Times*)

Links

- [Electronic Iraq](#) is a news portal committed to providing a uniquely comprehensive look at Iraq and the violence that has engulfed it. elraq was launched in February 2003 to provide a humanitarian perspective on the looming conflict in Iraq. The site quickly became a respected and vital resource unparalleled in its track record of providing news and analysis with a fresh and unique focus on the experiences of the Iraqi people enduring the daily tragedy and chaos of war.
- [PBS Frontline - Campaign Against Terror](#)