

### *Is the question of the original invasion relevant today?*

- all that matters is what is happening today?
- it does matter--theory of original invasion has a lot of implications for American foreign policy in the future
  - Would we do something similar in the future?
- the way we originally invaded matters
- Would the public would be more committed to the war if Abu-Ghraib didn't happen?
  - There was originally enough support to initially invade
- US has a role to play as the sole hegemon
  - How should the US conduct itself?

### *What effect does the beginning of the war have on what the war will look like in the future?*

- leave as soon as possible
  - Iraq does not necessarily have to be a flourishing democracy before you leave--relative stability is necessary
- need to secure long-term US interests
- US could pull out its military but leave a peace-building force
  - But it could conflict with Iraqi interests

### *Would it be a failure if Iraq rejected American interests?*

- US interests will always be represented in Iraq because the US is a more powerful state than Iraq
  - Iraq has an \$80 billion budget surplus, but there is corruption and inefficiency
  - Difficult to build from nothing
- parallel interests?
- Iraq cannot account for some of the money given by the US
  - Should the US provide manpower instead of money?
    - US wants Iraqi people to re-build their own country
- US military has privatized/outsourced basic jobs
- the US leaving might give Iraq an impetus to reform--> people may revolt instead of waiting for the next election to elect competent leaders
  - No culture of democracy
  - Is the US responsible for changing this culture of tyranny?
- Does the culture of democracy even exist?
  - Takes education

- If a culture of democracy needs to exist, then why are we in Iraq?
- Needs proper framework
- liberal democracy vs. pure democracy
- people in Middle East vote in blocs
  - Blocs are corrupt and people are swayed by propaganda
  - Voting in blocs are necessary because of religion, government systems
    - Ex) Maronite Christians in Lebanon most likely will not support a Sunni candidate
  - Shifting of bloc opinions and exploitation by political leaders
    - People will follow blocs and their changing ideas
- democracy takes generations
  - Influence of education and family
  - Establishment of liberal values takes time
- Arab world=no strong idea of accountability
  - People in the Levant--ideas are dictated to them, so they don't feel the need to constantly voice their opinions
  - Gulf--not paying taxes, so there is no accountability
- in US there are two primary political parties, but there are a significant number of moderates and independents who can sway the vote
  - Rare crossing of party lines between Shia and Sunni
- working democracy in Iraq doesn't have to be a mirror image of democracy in the United States
  - Japan, Germany, France, Britain
    - Plan of reconstruction in Iraq?
- Does a democracy protect democratic values or ensure security?--question of perspective
- US history
  - rights of women and colored people vs. rights of men
  - Fought a civil war
  - Democratizing and reforming Iraq will not be easy, but they should still strive to become a first-world democracy even though it may take time
- Narrow ethnic, religious interests of various parties in the Middle East

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Define what stability means--opinions of future leaders
  - Clear benchmarks for what would constitute a stable Iraq
- Mandating accountability for all private military and intelligent contractors
- Government--federation?
  - Federal government is in charge of security

- suggestion: future US government shouldn't necessarily make decisions based upon the opinion of the people?

- This is not a characteristic of a democracy
- Past five years in Iraq were dictated by the government