

New Multi-Day Curriculum on Iraq

A new curriculum from the Choices Education Program provides students and teachers with the resources to consider the most pressing foreign policy problem facing the United States today.

Student readings examine the history of Iraq through the end of first Persian Gulf War, the different forces and events that have shaped Iraqi society, and the events immediately before and after the U.S.-led invasion of 2003. The readings pay special attention to the remaining challenges faced by Iraqis and the United States.

In addition to student readings, the materials contain a framework of policy options, suggested lesson plans, and resources for structuring cooperative learning and simulations. (The lessons are described in greater detail on the following page.) These materials challenge students to:

- read, understand, and interpret maps
- evaluate primary sources
- use online resources
- examine political rhetoric
- recognize relationships between history and current issues
- analyze and evaluate multiple perspectives on an issue
- understand the effect of media imagery
- engage in informed discussion
- develop and articulate original viewpoints
- design a web page
- communicate in written and oral presentations
- collaborate with peers

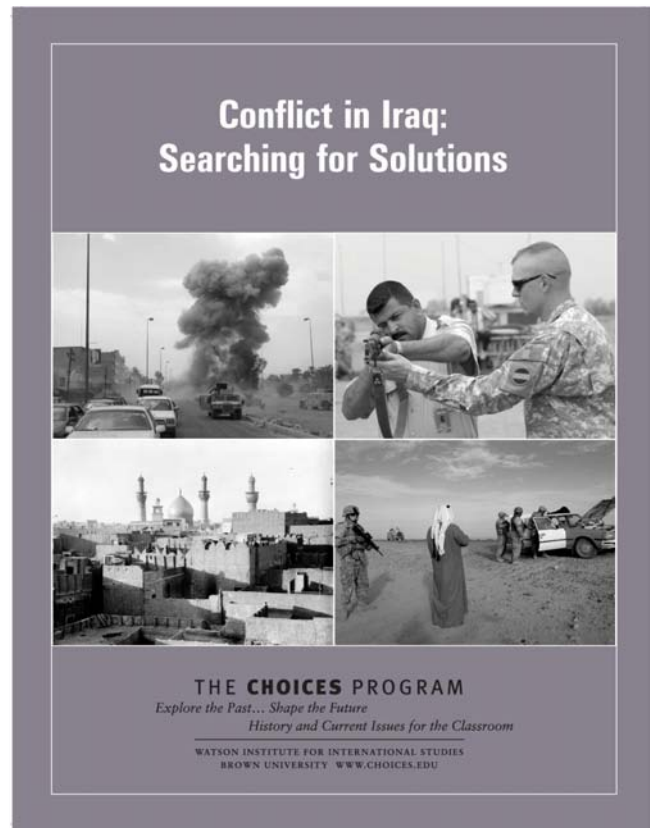
Choices curricula offer teachers a flexible resource for covering course material while actively engaging students and developing skills in critical thinking, deliberative discourse, persuasive writing, and informed civic participation. Teachers may choose to use all or only sections of readings and lesson plans to suit their classrooms.

Ordering Information

Teacher sets (consisting of a student text and a teacher resource book) are available for \$20 each. Permission is granted to duplicate and distribute the student text and handouts for classroom use with appropriate credit given. Duplicates may not be resold. Classroom sets (15 or more student texts) may be ordered at \$9.75 per copy. A teacher resource book is included free with each classroom set.

Teacher sets can also be downloaded for \$16 each.

Print and download copies may be ordered at <http://www.choices.edu/iraq>
or by contacting Choices at (401) 863-3155



Conflict in Iraq: Searching for Solutions

Why is the conflict in Iraq so complex?

Conflict in Iraq: Searching for Solutions helps students explore the history of Iraq and the U.S. role there. Students also examine ethnic and religious differences in Iraq and the role these differences play in the current conflict.

Conflict in Iraq: Searching for Solutions engages students in the leading issues driving the current debate about the U.S. role in Iraq. Reading and lessons prepare students to formulate their own ideas on the future of U.S. policy there.

“Despite a massive effort, stability in Iraq remains elusive and the situation is deteriorating.... Time is running out.”

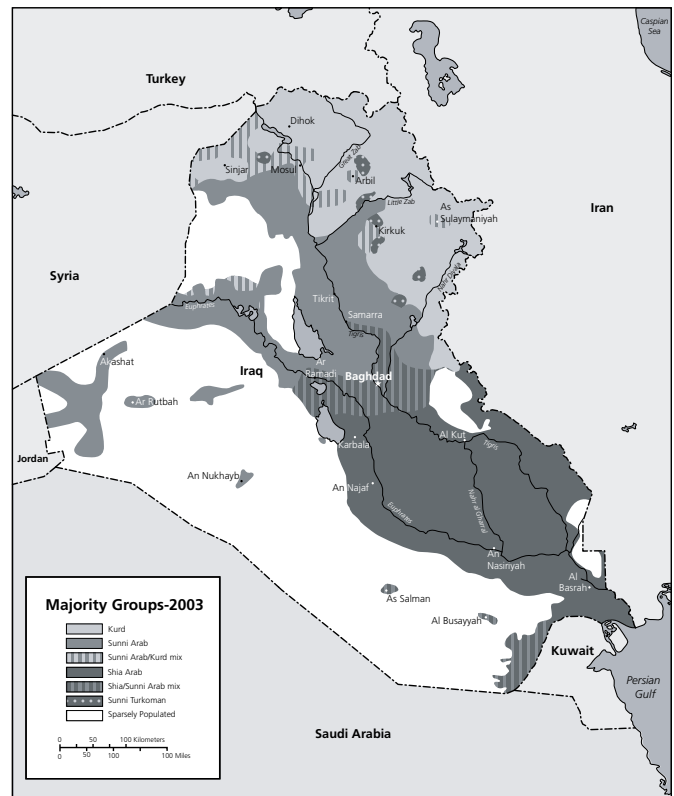
—The Iraq Study Group, December 2006

LESSON IN DETAIL

Blogging the War in Iraq: Evaluating Sources

Students explore Iraqi blogs as a means of supplementing their knowledge of events in Iraq. Teachers may choose to use a provided excerpt from a blog or have students visit one of numerous weblogs provided. The lesson emphasizes assessing reliability and bias in primary sources and the work of interpreting competing views.

Resources include selections from speeches and statements by the Bush Administration, excerpts from Iraqi blogs, political cartoons, photographs, and maps of Iraq and the region. The maps as well as additional online resources are available for electronic download.



LESSONS

The Geography of Iraq — *In this exercise students identify major geographical landmarks, oil resources, and the locations of major ethnic and religious groups. Students connect geography to events in Iraq.*

Blogging the War in Iraq: Evaluating Sources —

Rhetoric and the Iraq War — *Students read a selection of speeches and statements from the Bush administration between 2001 and 2006. The lesson emphasizes categorizing the rationale for war and the relationship between rhetoric and public opinion.*

Role Playing the Three Options — *Students work cooperatively to present the three options for U.S. policy. A fourth group serves as members of the Senate, who ask clarifying questions and evaluate the options.*

Weighing the Options for U.S. Policy — *Students develop their own guidelines for U.S. policy based on personally held values and historical understanding. They then write a letter to Congress or the newspaper expressing their views.*

The Medium and the Message — *Students explore a variety of news sources to understand the effect of images and words on viewers' reactions to events. Students have an opportunity to design a web page of their own.*