

# A Global Controversy: The U.S. Invasion of Iraq

Second edition. April 2017.

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- Begins with Sumerian civilization, early Islamic empires, and the Ottoman occupation.
- Includes a history of 20th century Iraq: imperialist interests in the region, independence struggle, exploitation of oil reserves, political instability, proxy wars, the rise of the Ba'ath party and Saddam Hussein's political, economic, and social reforms, Iran-Iraq War, and the First Persian Gulf War.
- Concludes with the aftermath of the U.S. occupation.

## STUDENT READINGS

- Contextualizes the 2003 debate with a survey of 20th century political and economic history and an explanation of the run-up to the 2003 war and the process that brought the United States into the conflict.
- Explains how the U.S. proposal to invade Iraq represented a departure from previous foreign policy.
- Uses the Iraq War as a detailed case study through which to raise questions of sovereignty and security at the heart of international relations.
- Illustrates the effects of the war both in Iraq and the United States.
- Connects the Iraq War to current debates about refugee policy.

## CENTRAL ROLE PLAY ACTIVITY

**Question:** Should the United States lead coalition forces into war in Iraq in 2003?

**Setting:** Community meeting of U.S. citizens

## SKILL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH LESSONS

A short description of each lesson can be found on the unit webpage [here](#).

Students will:

- **Interpret** maps; identify physical and economic characteristics of Iraq.
- **Analyze** images of Iraqi life in 1932 to consider the benefits and limitations of using photos as historical sources.
- **Analyze** media coverage of Colin Powell's speech before the UN and discuss the role of the media in a democracy.
- **Compare and contrast** results of the Iraq War to the Bush administration's stated goals.
- **Evaluate** blog posts and other first-hand accounts of individuals' experiences in Iraq.
- **Collaborate** with a team to synthesize readings, lessons, and primary source extracts into class presentations.
- **Listen** actively and deliberate with peers on the complex viewpoints expressed.

## LINKS FOR FURTHER CURRICULUM EVALUATION

**Videos** - A free online [video collection](#) accompanies this unit, and the videos are incorporated throughout the Digital Editions.

**Print Format** - This unit [preview](#) includes the table of contents, a reading excerpt, and a sample lesson plan.

**Digital Editions Format** - Interested in what the Digital Editions format looks like? Check out our web-based curriculum [here](#).