

Iraq Crisis

- Today Iraq, Tomorrow Iran (August 11, 2004)

This article lists 21 mistaken predictions of the US administration in its invasion of Iraq. The author suggests that the US government may consider a "pre-emptive" attack on Iran to "distract the American people from their catastrophic and incompetent record." (*Salon.com*)

<http://www.globalpolicy.org/empire/analysis/2004/0811tomorrow.htm>

- War? What War? (August 12, 2004)

On May 26, 2004, the New York Times made a "mea culpa" about its reporting on the Iraq war and occupation, with other media outlets following suit. The admission of "questionable" reporting reflected not only on the New York Times, but more-so on other mainstream news outlets throughout the US. With no end to the occupation of Iraq in sight, has the media changed its reporting approach towards the war? (*Salon.com*)

<http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/issues/iraq/media/2004/0812whatwar.htm>

- Pentagon Questions Halliburton on \$1.8 Billion of Work in Iraq (August 11, 2004)

Pentagon auditors criticized Halliburton subsidiary Kellogg Brown & Root's (KBR) "internal control policies," claiming its practices are "inadequate for providing verifiable, supportable, and documented cost estimates that are acceptable for negotiating a fair and reasonable price." However, Pentagon officials concede that the Bush administration will "essentially forgive" KBR's actions and will not withhold payments on Iraqi contracts.

(*Wall Street Journal*)

<http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/issues/iraq/contract/2004/0811kbr.htm>

- Iraqi South Threatens Secession (August 10, 2004)

Responding to the US military operation in Najaf, Basra Deputy Governor Salam Uda al-Maliki called for the separation of Basra, Misan and Dhi Qar governorates from the central government in Baghdad. Al-Maliki contends that innocent Iraqis are suffering and are dying at the hands of "an illegal and unelected government, and occupation forces who claimed they came to liberate Iraq." (*al-Jazeera*)

<http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/issues/iraq/occupation/2004/0810secession.htm>

- The Failed Occupation (August 8, 2004)

Will Iraq emerge as the "open, democratic society," Washington and London envisioned? Jonathan Freedland of the *Guardian* argues that the censure of Arab television network al-Jazeera, charges of murder and corruption against White House favorites Ahmed and Salem Chalabi, and the continued presence of over 160,000 foreign troops operating "of their own freewill," proves otherwise.

<http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/issues/iraq/occupation/2004/0808failedoccupation.htm>

- In Baghdad, Cleaning Up the Spoils of Freedom (August 6, 2004)

21,000 laborers and 5,100 students were hired by the city of Baghdad to remove "the mountains of food waste, soda cans, plastic bags and spare car parts" from the city that

have piled up since the US invasion in March 2003. The program, funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID), started in July 2004 with a goal to clean up Baghdad and to create jobs for the unemployed. (*Washington Post*)
<http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/issues/iraq/attack/consequences/2004/0806cleanup.htm>

- UN Panel Says Oil-For-Food Probe to Take Much Longer Than Expected (August 10, 2004)

The Head of the UN panel investigating corruption allegations stemming from the Iraqi Oil-for-Food programme claims that it will take a year to publish its findings and cost \$30 million. Paul Volcker initially estimated that the inquiry would conclude by the end of 2004, at a cost of \$4 million. (Status Report of Independent Inquiry) (*Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty*)

<http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/sanction/iraq1/oilforfood/2004/0810unpanel.htm>

- UN Absence Could Jeopardize Fair Elections (August 9, 2004)

Inter Press Service reports that the UN is "unlikely" to send an electoral team into Iraq unless its workers are "heavily protected." UN monitors would assist in preparing for national election in January 2005, and supervise the elections. To date, UN member states have not contributed any troops to a "multinational force" protecting UN personnel.

<http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/issues/iraq/unrole/2004/0809unabsence.htm>

- Church Bombings Outrage Iraqis of All Faiths (August 3, 2004)

US President George Bush and UK Prime Minister Tony Blair assert that Iraq is safer following the overthrow of the Saddam Hussein regime. However, the bombing of Christian churches by insurgents in Baghdad and Mosul proves otherwise. The attacks mark the first time in Iraq's history that Christians were the targets of large-scale violence. (*Washington Post*)

<http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/issues/iraq/occupation/2004/0803church.htm>

- Iraq's Labor Upsurge Wins Support from US Unions (July 28, 2004)

The overthrow of Saddam Hussein in March 2003 sparked a revitalization of Iraq's labor movement, as workers organized in trade unions. However, CPA Administrator Paul Bremer repressed workers rights by imposing a law banning unions in public enterprises. To date, Iraq's Interim Government has yet to lift the ban. (*Foreign Policy in Focus*)
<http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/issues/iraq/attack/consequences/2004/0728unions.htm>

- Iraq Cleric Vows Fight to Death versus US (August 9, 2004)

Renewed fighting between the US and followers of Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr sparked accusations by Iraqi Defense Minister Hazem Shaalan that Iran is arming the Shiite militias. Iran denied the allegations, however officials concede that insurgents are illegally crossing the unprotected border between the two countries. (*Associated Press*)
<http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/issues/iraq/occupation/2004/0809clericfight.htm>

- Sistani's Trip to the UK, Fayyad Likely Successor (August 9, 2004)

Ash-Sharq al-Awsat reveals that Grand Ayatollah Sistani's planned trip to the UK was in the works since mid-July 2004. The reports suggest that US forces planned a siege on Najaf well before the August 2004 uprising, and that the US feared that al-Sadr may take Sistani hostage or seek refuge in the Grand Ayatollah's home. (*Informed Comment*)

<http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/issues/iraq/occupation/2004/0809sistani.htm>

- Al-Jazeera Vows to Defy Iraq Ban (August 7, 2004)

Iraq's Interim Government closed the Iraqi offices of Arab television station Al-Jazeera for one month, accusing it of inciting violence. Al-Jazeera rebuffed the claims, arguing that the censure was "contrary to pledges made by the Interim Iraqi Government to start a new era of free speech and openness." (*al-Jazeera*)

<http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/issues/iraq/media/2004/0807aljazeera.htm>