

War on Terror: Student Questions

Reminder: This information is quite recent in terms of history and we do not have a large number of academic sources that have analyzed and found all of the truths to these topics. I have chosen sources that I would believe to be credible, but information on these topics continues to change as more information is revealed.

TERRORISM: GENERAL

Define terrorism	The use of violence and intimidation in the pursuit of political aims.
Reasoning behind actions/ What is their goal / Why is it happening / Why do people terrorize other people	All terrorist acts are motivated by two things: - Social and political injustice: People choose terrorism when they are trying to right what they perceive to be a social or political or historical wrong—when they have been stripped of their land or rights, or denied these. - The belief that violence or its threat will be effective, and usher in change. Another way of saying this is: the belief that violent means justify the ends. Many terrorists in history said sincerely that they chose violence after long deliberation, because they felt they had no choice.
Attacks in Canada	-2006 - In the 2006 Ontario terrorism plot, Canadian counter-terrorism forces arrested 18 terrorists (dubbed the "Toronto 18") inspired by al-Qaeda. They were accused of planning to detonate truck bombs, to open fire in a crowded area, and to storm the Canadian Broadcasting Centre, the Canadian Parliament building, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) headquarters, and the parliamentary Peace Tower, to take hostages and to behead the Prime Minister and other leaders. -2013 – To individuals of Montreal and Toronto, charged as part of an alleged Al Qaeda plot to derail a New York to Toronto train on the Canadian side of the border. Alleged plot was not imminent. The suspects said they were arrested based on their appearance. -July 1, 2013 - Canada Day participants at the British Columbia Provincial Legislature Buildings were targets of an alleged plot by Surrey to plant pressure-cooker bombs as inspired by al-Qaida. Investigation by RCMP and CSIS prevented implementation of the plot. -October 20, 2014 – On October 20, 2014, two Canadian Forces members were hit by Martin Couture-Rouleau, a recent Muslim convert in what is known as the 2014 Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu ramming attack. Warrant officer Patrice Vincent died of his injuries. Couture-Rouleau was eventually gunned down and killed. -October 22, 2014 – On the morning of October 22, 2014 at 9:52am, Michael Zehaf-Bibeau, a 32-year-old drug addict and self-convert to Islam, who was known to Canadian authorities, shot and killed Cpl. Nathan Cirillo while the 24-year-old stood guard at the War Memorial in Ottawa, Ontario. In the aftermath of the attack, there was much speculation about whether the attack was an act of terrorism related to Canada's recent joining in the armed coalition against ISIS, or a criminal act of a mentally-deranged loner.
Is ISIS in	-No known attacks

Canada	-While ISIS encourages recruits to join them in Iraq and Syria, they also want Western supporters to conduct attacks in their home countries.
How are we going to stop the terrorists	<p>Ideas include...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Stop Supporting the Dictators Who Fund Terrorists 2) Stop Arming Terrorists 3) Stop Imperial Conquests for Arab Oil 4) Stop Mass Surveillance 5) Stop Torture 6) Stop Drone Assassinations of Innocent Civilians
London Bombing	<p>-July 2005 four suicide bombers with rucksacks full of explosives attacked central London, killing 52 people and injuring hundreds more. It was the worst single terrorist atrocity on British soil.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 8:50 a.m. - Three suicide bombings occur within 50 seconds of each other on three different trains traveling through London Underground stations. - al Qaeda operative - Four, and possibly more, young British men from immigrant families were prepared to blow themselves up simply due to an irrational hatred of Western civilisation inculcated by Islamic fundamentalism. No reason is offered for why these and hundreds more Asian youth are attracted to religious extremism and are prepared to kill and be killed. To even raise the question of the role played by Britain's participation in the Iraq war in fomenting anger amongst Muslims is to invite denunciations of being an apologist for the terrorist atrocities. - To some it is considered obvious that the London bombings were a response to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the ongoing occupation of those countries.

AFGHANISTAN

When it started and finished	2001 - 2014
Why is happened	-Seeking to battle terrorism following 9/11
Who was involved	- Including United States, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy, Canada, Afghanistan (etc.) Vs. - Insurgent groups including Taliban and al-Qaeda
Where is Afghanistan	-A landlocked country located within South Asia and Central Asia. -It is bordered by Pakistan in the south and east; Iran in the west; Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan in the north; and China in the far northeast
About the Taliban terrorism	-Terrorist Group: Taliban - The Taliban emerged in the early 1990s in northern Pakistan following the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. -The Taliban's promise was to restore peace and security and enforce their own Islamic law, once in power. -They introduced or supported Islamic punishments such as public executions of convicted murderers and adulterers and amputations of those found guilty of theft - Men were required to grow beards and women had to wear the all-covering burka. -The Taliban banned television, music and cinema and disapproved of girls aged 10 and over from going to school. - The Taliban in Afghanistan were accused of providing a sanctuary to Osama Bin Laden and the al-Qaeda movement who were blamed for the attacks. -Afghans, weary of the infighting after the Soviets were driven out, generally welcomed the Taliban when they first appeared on the scene. -Their early popularity was largely due to their success in stamping out corruption, curbing lawlessness and making the roads and the areas under their control safe for commerce to flourish. -By 1998, they were in control of almost 90% of Afghanistan. -They were accused of various human rights and cultural abuses.
How many have died	-Canada=158 -USA=2379 -Total=3513 ('our' side of the war)
Affected civilians	- The war in Afghanistan continues destroying lives, due to the direct consequences of violence and the war-induced breakdown of public health, security, and infrastructure. -Civilians have been killed by crossfire, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), assassinations, bombings, and night raids into houses of suspected insurgents. Even in the absence of fighting, unexploded ordnance from previous wars and United States cluster bombs continue to kill. - Hospitals in Afghanistan are treating large numbers of war wounded, including amputees and burn victims. The war has also inflicted invisible wounds. In 2009, the Afghan Ministry of Public Health reported that fully two-thirds of Afghans suffer from mental health problems.

	<p>-About 92,000 people have been killed in the Afghanistan war since 2001. More than 26,000 of those killed have been civilians. Nearly 100,000 people have been injured since 2001.</p>
<p>Conditions in Afghanistan Now</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Despite Afghanistan’s persistent warfare, Afghans have made significant progress in laying the foundations for a more representative state that can meet its people’s needs. -Among the achievements, accomplished with international support since the Taliban’s overthrow in 2001, the country has held five national elections, enrolled millions of children in school, established a robust environment for the media and civil society, and drastically increased women’s participation in public life and government. -Still, as the international presence in Afghanistan wanes, the state remains fragile and heavily reliant on outside technical and financial support to sustain basic functions. The education system in Afghanistan is regarded as one of the country's biggest success stories since the Taliban were driven from power. -In 2001 no girls attended formal schools and there were only one million boys enrolled. By 2012 the World Bank says there were 7.8 million pupils attending school - including about 2.9 million girls. -However, many schools are still operating from tents, houses and under trees. The World Bank says of 180,000 teachers, only 52% meet the minimum standards required and the rest are receiving in-service training. -Girls' dropout rates are still very high in secondary schools and the country's adult literacy rate, 39% over the age of 15 can read and write, is one of the lowest in the world. -Some women have begun to forge careers for themselves. More than a quarter of parliament and government employees are now women, according to charity Islamic Relief. A survey in 2009 found women were being employed by government at a much faster rate than men. If the female growth rate continued, the share of female employees would be more than 40% by 2020. - Women are now also employed in the police and army. British officers have helped to establish a military training academy that aims to train 100 female army officers per year. - Despite the advances, violence against women is still a problem, with beatings, forced marriage and lack of economic support being listed as the top three offences reported by the CSO in 2010. Although the number of cases appears to be going down, the report also notes a new form of violence - prevention of women from taking part in social activities. -There have been big improvements in the country's health system. Life expectancy has increased slightly from 56 to 60 years. But there have been big improvements in the under-five mortality rate and the maternal mortality rates. - According to the UN, access to safe drinking water improved from 4.8% of the population to 60.6% by 2011. Access to better sanitation, including private rather than shared toilets, has also improved to an average 37%. But the averages again mask big differences between urban and rural areas, with much less improvement in rural areas. - Afghanistan's biggest export is still opium - despite attempts to persuade farmers to diversify. 2013 was a record year and the country produces 90% of the world's opium. - Other exports include fruit and nuts, handwoven carpets and wool. -Imports include machinery, food, textiles and petroleum products.

Tora Bora	<p>-In the weeks following the attacks of September 11, 2001, Coalition forces commenced an invasion of Afghanistan with the goal of toppling the ruling Taliban and capturing Osama bin Laden.</p> <p>-The first to enter the country were members of the Central Intelligence Agency's Special Activities Division and a variety of US Special Forces. These operators coordinated with local resistance groups and militia, such as the Northern Alliance, to conduct a ground campaign against the Taliban. By December, the Taliban and Al-Qaeda fighters had been forced to retreat into a cave system known as Tora Bora.</p> <p>-Situated in the White Mountains, southeast of Kabul and near the Pakistani border, Tora Bora was believed to be an elaborate underground base, complete with hydroelectric power, barracks, and storage facilities.</p> <p>-To assault this fortress, three militia leaders gathered around 2,500 men and a collection of old Russian tanks near the base of the mountains.</p> <p>-In addition to facing bitter cold, the militia leaders were plagued by a dislike of one another and the fact that it was the holy month of Ramadan which required fasting from dawn to dusk. As a result, many of their men routinely slipped away in the evening to celebrate iftar, the meal that breaks the fast, with their families. As the Afghans prepared on the ground, an American aerial bombardment of Tora Bora, which had commenced about a month earlier, came to its climax.</p> <p>-Pushing up the slopes towards the first line of Taliban caves, the Afghans were attacked by a number of bin Laden's men. After brief exchange of fire, they fell back up the ridge. Over the next three days, the militias fell into a pattern of attacking and retreating, with some caves changing hands multiple times within a twenty-four hour period.</p> <p>-On the third day, around three dozen Coalition Special Forces, led by an American Delta Force major, arrived on the scene. The unidentified major, who uses the pen name Dalton Fury, had been dispatched with his men as intelligence showed that bin Laden was at Tora Bora.</p> <p>-While Fury assessed the situation, the militias pressed their attacks from the north, west, and east, but to no avail. They did not attack from the south, closest to the border, where the mountains were the highest. Under orders to kill bin Laden and leave the body with the Afghans, Fury devised a plan calling for his Special Forces troops to move over the southern mountains to attack the rear of the al-Qaeda position. Requesting permission from higher headquarters, Fury states that he was denied.</p> <p>-He next asked for GATOR land mines to be dropped in the mountain passes leading to Pakistan in order to prevent bin Laden from escaping. This request was also denied. With no other choice, Fury met with the militias to discuss a frontal attack on Tora Bora. Initially reluctant to guide Fury's men, the major relates that additional financial encouragement from the CIA operatives present convinced the Afghans to move out. Climbing up the slopes, the Special Forces operators and the Afghans fought several skirmishes with the Taliban and al-Qaeda.</p> <p>-Four days after arriving on the scene, Fury was about to depart to aid three of his men who were pinned down when the CIA informed him that they had a fix on bin Laden's location. Rescuing his men, Fury and a handful of Special Forces advanced to within 2,000 meters of the position. Lacking Afghan support, believing that bin Laden had around 1,000 men with</p>
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	<p>him, and under orders to let the militia take the lead, Fury and his men pulled back with the intention of making a full assault in the morning. The next day, bin Laden was heard on the radio, allowing his position to be confirmed.</p> <p>-Preparing to move out on December 12, Fury's men were stunned when their Afghan allies announced they had negotiated a ceasefire with al-Qaeda. Angered, the Special Forces troops moved forward to attack alone but were stopped when the Afghans drew their weapons. After twelve hours, the standoff ended and the Afghans agreed to rejoin the battle. It is believed that this time allowed bin Laden to shift his position. Renewing the attack, heavy pressure was placed on al-Qaeda and Taliban forces from advancing ground troops and heavy aerial bombardment.</p> <p>-Through the day on December 13, bin Laden's radio messages became increasingly desperate. After one these broadcasts, a Delta Force team observed 50 men moving into a nearby cave. One of the men was tentatively identified as bin Laden. Calling in massive air strikes, the Special Forces troops believed that bin Laden died in the cave as his radio went silent. Pushing through the remainder of Tora Bora, it was found that the cave systems were not as complex as originally thought and the area was largely secured by December 17. Coalition teams returned to Tora Bora six months after the battle to search for bin Laden's body but to no avail. With the release of a new video in October 2004, it was confirmed that he had survived the battle and remained at large.</p> <p>-While no Coalition troops died at Tora Bora, it is estimated that around 200 Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters were killed. Intelligence now suggests that bin Laden was able to escape from the Tora Bora area around December 16. Fury believes that bin Laden was wounded in the shoulder during the air strikes and received medical attention before being moved over the southern mountains into Pakistan.</p>
<p>Operation Neptune Spear</p>	<p>- On May 01, 2011, in a televised address to the Nation, U.S. President Barack Obama confirmed that Osama Bin Laden had been killed that day as a result of a US military operation, codenamed Neptune Spear, by US Special Operations Forces inside a compound in Bilal, a suburb of Abbottabad; a city of 100,000 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province home to to the headquarters of one of the brigades from the Pakistani Army's 2nd Division, as well as the Pakistani Military Academy, the country's equivalent to the US Military Academy at West Point. Abbottabad is located between Pakistan's capital Islamabad, and Peshawar, approximately 30 miles from Islamabad.</p> <p>-The compound was reportedly a large million dollar property, built about 5 years prior to the operation, and was believed to have been made specifically for Osama Bin Laden. Equipped with 12-18 foot tall and thick walls topped with barbed wire, multiple interior walls, additional privacy walls, and 2 security gates, it nonetheless lacked internet and phone access. It was suggested by US officials that the inhabitants of the compound probably had very little interaction with those around them. The Associated Press reported Osama Bin Laden's compound to be located only 100 yards away from a Pakistani Military Academy. Though the reported distance between the 2 sites varied in the immediate reporting, the location of the compound was clearly near or within the jurisdiction of Abbottabad Cantonment, controlled by the Pakistani military.</p> <p>- The authentication process used to determine the deceased as being Osama Bin Laden included visual confirmation by the forces conducting the raid, visual confirmation by a</p>

woman at the scene identified as one of Osama Bin Laden's wives, and visual confirmation by CIA analysts of photographs taken with confirmed photographs of Osama Bin Laden. On the morning of 2 May 2011, CIA and other specialists in the intelligence community performed the initial DNA analysis matching a virtually 100-percent DNA match of the body against DNA of several Bin Laden family members.

-The raid, conducted by Joint Task Force Neptune, reported to consist of US Navy SEALs from Naval Special Warfare Development Group (DEVGRU; also commonly referred to as SEAL Team 6) and helicopters from the US Army's 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), as well as possibly other elements, was designed to minimize collateral damage and risk to non-combatants in the compound and to Pakistani civilians in the area. The final order for the operation was given on the morning of 29 April 2011. It consisted of a helicopter insertion after which a firefight ensued, resulting in the death of Osama Bin Laden. CIA Director Leon Panetta said that 25 Navy SEALs had conducted the raid. Accompanying the US Navy Seal team was a bomb-sniffing dog. US personnel were on the ground for approximately 40 minutes.

-Media sources reported that Pakistani Intelligence was involved in helping the United States track Bin Laden and that Pakistani intelligence operatives were on the ground during the operation. However, only US forces were reported to have been involved in the operation. Initial reports suggested that no Pakistani troops had been involved in the operation. The official US Government position was that no Pakistani personnel were involved in the operation. In addition, it was reported that the Pakistani government was only informed of the operation after the fact. Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism John Brennan reported in a briefing on 2 May 2011, that the Pakistani Air Force scrambled fighter aircraft in response to the raid.

-In a White House press briefing on 3 May 2011, Press Secretary Jay Carney said that Osama Bin Laden resisted capture and was shot, but that he had been unarmed. Government sources reported that he was shot in the head. His body was recovered by US forces and later authenticated as being that of Osama Bin Laden. Osama Bin Laden had reportedly been assigned the codename "Geronimo" during the operation.

-Following authentication, Osama Bin Laden's body was reportedly handled "in accordance with Islamic practice and tradition" and later buried at sea. This involved washing the deceased's body and then placing it in a white sheet. The body was placed in a weighted bag, a military officer read prepared religious remarks, which were translated into Arabic by a native speaker. After the words were complete, the body was placed on a prepared flat board, tipped up, whereupon the deceased body eased into the sea. No autopsy was performed on the body.

-During the raid, 3 other men, including one believed to have been one of Osama's adult sons were reported to have been killed. Osama bin Laden was later said to have been on the second floor of the target building, with the others being killed when the assaulting forces entered the ground floor. Subsequent reporting suggested that only one of the men, believed to have been a courier, was armed, but that the others were seen either moving threateningly toward the forces conducting the operation or toward weapons.

-In addition, several women and children were also present at the compound. One woman was killed when she was used as a shield by one of Osama's men. Two other women were also

injured. Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism John Brennan said in a briefing on 2 May 2011, that the woman killed had been being used as a human shield either for or by Osama Bin Laden, and may have attacked the forces conducting the operation. Senior Defense and Intelligence Officials said during a briefing later on 2 May 2011, that the woman who had been killed had been used as a human shield by one of the 4 military-age males on the compound. During that briefing, it was reported that one of the women who was wounded was with Osama Bin Laden and was identified as one of his wives, possibly the youngest. Osama was reported to have been living at the compound with 3 of his wives.

-In a White House press briefing on 3 May 2011, Press Secretary Jay Carney said that the woman who was killed had been killed in the cross fire and had not been used as a human shield. He also said the woman who was with Osama Bin Laden and who was wounded, had rushed the forces conducting the operation and had been shot in the leg.

-During the operation, no US personnel were injured, although a US helicopter used in the operation was originally reported to have suffered a mechanical failure and had to be destroyed. The remnants of the helicopter was recovered by members of the Pakistani military after the raid. The initial reports, including statements from US government officials, were that a total of 2 MH-60 Black Hawk and 2 MH-47 Chinook type helicopters had been used in the operation. Subsequent pictures of the wreckage of the down aircraft suggested that a new type, possibly incorporating stealth technology or noise reduction technology, had been used. The helicopter was also subsequently reported to have suffered from a failure in the so-called "hot and high" environment, rather than a mechanical failure. The air flow created by the compounds high walls, which blocked rotor downwash from diffusing, was also reported to have been a factor. The aircraft then entered a vortex, causing it to lose altitude rapidly. During the resulting hard landing, the aircraft was sufficiently damaged, including a complete loss of the tail rotor assembly, to warrant its destruction.

IRAQ

When it started and finished	2003-2011
Why is happened	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-In 2002 the new U.S. president, George W. Bush, argued that the vulnerability of the United States following the September 11 attacks of 2001-Combined with Iraq's alleged continued possession and manufacture of weapons of mass destruction and its support for terrorist groups made disarming Iraq a renewed priority.
Who was involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-United States, Iraq-Also others for portions of the war including United Kingdom, Australia, Poland, Korea, Italy Vs.-Iraq under Saddam Hussein and terrorist groups
Where is Iraq	-The country of Iraq is in the Asia continent. The countries that surround Iraq are Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey
Who was the terrorist leader/ About the group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Saddam Hussein was the president of Iraq for more than 20 years-Members of the Bush administration had suspected that the Hussein government had a relationship with Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda organization. In his January 2002 State of the Union address, U.S. President George W. Bush named Iraq as part of his so-called "Axis of Evil," along with Iran and North Korea, and claimed that the country was developing weapons of mass destruction and supporting terrorism-Later that year, UN inspections of suspected weapons sites in Iraq began, but little or no evidence that such programs existed was ultimately found. Despite this, on March 20, 2003, under the pretense that Iraq did in fact have a covert weapons program and that it was planning attacks, a U.S.-led coalition invaded Iraq.-In the months that followed, an intensive search for Saddam began. While in hiding, Saddam released several audio recordings, in which he denounced Iraq's invaders and called for resistance. Finally, on December 13, 2003, Saddam was found hiding in a small underground bunker near a farmhouse. From there, he was moved to a U.S. base in Baghdad, where he would remain until June 30, 2004, when he was officially handed over to the interim Iraqi government to stand trial for crimes against humanity.-During the subsequent trial, Saddam would prove to be a belligerent defendant, often boisterously challenging the court's authority and making bizarre statements. On November 5, 2006, Saddam was found guilty and sentenced to death. The sentencing was appealed, but was ultimately upheld by a court of appeals. On December 30, 2006, at Camp Justice, an Iraqi base in Baghdad, Saddam was hanged, despite his request to be shot.
How many have died	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-American Military Casualties in Iraq: About 4500-Americans wounded: Over 32000-No one knows with certainty how many people have been killed and wounded in Iraq since the 2003 United States invasion. However, we know that approximately 165,000 civilians have died from direct war related violence caused by the US, its allies, the Iraqi military and police, and opposition forces from the time of the invasion through April 2015.

Real cause?	<p>-Only a view, not proven.</p> <p>-There were only two credible reasons for invading Iraq: control over oil and preservation of the dollar as the world's reserve currency.</p> <p>-Saddam controlled a country at the centre of the Gulf, a region with a quarter of world oil production in 2003, and containing more than 60% of the world's known reserves. With 115bn barrels of oil reserves, and perhaps as much again in the 90% of the country not yet explored, Iraq has capacity second only to Saudi Arabia. The US, in contrast, is the world's largest net importer of oil.</p> <p>-By invading Iraq, Bush has taken over the Iraqi oil fields, and persuaded the UN to lift production limits imposed after the Kuwait war.</p> <p>-Overseeing Iraqi oil supplies, and maybe soon supplies from other Gulf countries, would enable the US to use oil as power. In 1990, the then oil man, Dick Cheney, wrote that: "Whoever controls the flow of Persian Gulf oil has a stranglehold not only on our economy but also on the other countries of the world as well."</p>
Affected civilians	<p>-The number of displaced persons, both internal (within Iraq) and external (refugees, mainly in Jordan and Syria) ranged from estimates of 3.5 million to 5 million or more, which were directly attributable to the war. Virtually all first-hand accounts blamed violence as the cause of moving, or threats of ethnic or sectarian cleansing of neighborhoods.</p> <p>-Understanding the psychological impact of war on civilians is important because wars change a society's relationship with the future. War conditions create memories and wounds that outlive the wars themselves. Their images and sounds persist in art, economics, politics, and private lives through multiple generations. They create corrosive memories that take decades to work through</p>
How did it affect us after	<p>-Initially many believed that Canada not joining the US and Britain in Iraq would be detrimental to our relationships, but it was fine there wasn't really a backlash for not joining</p> <p>- The biggest impact the Iraq war has had on Canada, is the citizens trusting politicians and the political system with being told strongly that we were not joining and then the leaked documents coming out which showed us telling the US that we would support them on the side.</p>
Is Iraq better now as a result?	<p>One View:</p> <p>-the war didn't improve things much anyway; on the contrary, it worsened the whole situation. Instead of living safely in poor conditions, Iraqis became somewhat wealthy, but lost all measures of personal safety. Where once they just had one tyrant to be afraid of, now they have hundreds more! Even keeping their mouths shut, which used to keep them safe, didn't help anymore. People were dying for having the wrong religion, place of birth, or even the wrong name! The year 2006 was worse than 1991 and 2003 combined. Militias took over the streets, and it was chaos.</p> <p>-Post 2007, the violence surges became more tame; Babylon, where my family lives, was becoming a safer place to live. Baghdad and few other cities were struggling still and took longer to stabilize. Though every now and then, we still have the occasional suicide bombing and kidnappings here and there.</p> <p>-My family's income has seen a tremendous boost since 2003, and they now live comfortably. That being said, my brother has survived a car bombing and I about four thus far. Families that live in more dangerous cities, like Baghdad and Mosul, consider themselves lucky to be able to</p>

say the same.

Another view:

-Iraq, today, 10 years on from the war, from the overthrow of Saddam Hussein, is not what the Iraqi people hoped for and expected. We hoped for an inclusive democracy, an Iraq that is at peace with itself and at peace with its neighbors," Salih said. "To be blunt, we are far from that."

- "But," he added, "it's important to understand where we started from. ... Literally hundreds of thousands of Iraqis were sent to mass graves. Ten years on from the demise of Saddam Hussein, we're still discovering mass graves across Iraq. And Iraqis are better off without Saddam Hussein -- the overwhelming majority of Iraqis are better off without Saddam Hussein."

-So the Iraq war was, despite all that went wrong, a good thing; the "overwhelming majority" of Iraqis are (and presumably feel) better off because of it; and the fault for all that has gone wrong is ultimately with Iraqis themselves: