

Uncovering the Rationales for the War on Iraq

By Liza Zhang
Australian Studies

Since following the American troops of invading Middle East in 2003, the debate of whether withdrawing from these troublesome hot spots have been under many speculation from the Australian public. In the early months of the occupation, a majority of the Australian public felt that occupation forces should stay in Iraq to promote democracy and build a new society. But such opinion has steadily eroded. Only a small minority in the Australia and abroad now think that the occupation has had positive results. But what would happen if Australia were to pull out of Iraq, would there be more conflict? Afghanistan's President enlightened that he had the highest regard for Australian troops and had never had a complaint about Australian soldiers serving in his country.

This comes the question whether Australian troops should be with drawled from Iraq as a whole, many questions have been asked whether the War in Iraq itself is a predominate stance on the fight against terrorism. Why is Australian in this war? Many say Australia is in need of the relationship with America, who provides much of Australia's economic and social strength. Neither America nor any other country has any right to be in Iraq, it is in its right case, a civil war to begin with. Neither the Iraqi government nor the Iraqi people ever attacked the US or Australia making the war in Iraq an optional one, not a necessary one. The Iraqi government has made no significant steps towards reconciliation and accommodation between the warring parties, so why is there a need to base our troops to fight against their insurgents.

Millions of people have been driven from their homes, injured, or killed. With this, it cannot be convinced that the Iraqi people are better off in any way. The troops based in Iraq don't bring freedom to people by waging war on their cities and towns, and don't protect innocent people by killing innocent people. It is a crime to aggressively take the life of another person. There is no murder of innocent people that can be justified by claiming that it was necessary for the "greater good."

Like every war, this war is being funded through the forceful method of taxation. The wealth of the Australian people is being transferred to the government. Now, with no doubt, would be the biggest problem that is faced by the Australian public in consequence to the war in Iraq is our tightened rights. In this war, the government claims the need for massive power, and it uses war as an excuse to expand its control over our lives in every way possible. They tap our phones, read our emails, monitor our bank accounts, and give us "free speech zones." They take our property, waste our resources, and threaten to spend our economy into oblivion. These decisions mirror the consequences of our Australian troops in Iraq, which suggest the faster we pull out the better our country, will be as a whole.

Is the question of withdrawing troops about politics? Yes it is, and anyone believes Australia should be with drawled has missed the entire story. The Middle East has always been very important to Australia's security and broader national interests. And that the strength of our alliance with the United States is based ultimately on the awareness of each party to share risk on behalf of the other. To withdraw Australian troops would be like spitting everything we learnt and created back into our allies face. Our alliance has never been stronger and has never brought greater benefits for Australia, including in our engagement with Asian countries.

Security is the precondition for political and economic progress. That's why the international community must stay engaged for the struggle in Iraq. What the Iraqi people need most at this moment is not only our power, but also our sticking power on the ground. No one wants our forces to be in Iraq one day longer than necessary, But to signal our departure now would be against Australia's national interest. Last year the Government was criticized by the Opposition for placing our troops in a dangerous and worsening security environment in southern Iraq.

Democrats stand to alien soldiers in an effort to reach the "Soo" button of the Iraq war machine.



Now it seems we are being told by the Opposition that the southern provinces of Iraq are not dangerous enough to justify Australia's presence. A timetable for premature withdrawal of coalition forces from Iraq would invite disastrous strategic and humanitarian consequences. With this, it would lead to more widespread and extreme human rights abuses, with more displaced Iraqi civilians and further flow of refugees to neighbouring states.

A withdrawal would also give a light to those looking to make Iraq a platform for global terror. With Al Qaeda and other extremists claiming withdrawal as a victory, this would likely inspire more terrorism outside Iraq. It would further destabilize what is already the world's most unstable region, perhaps creating a wider war.

It is a belief that restoring security in Iraq is critical to creating the space and time Iraqis need to find a lasting political solution.

What Iraq and her people need now is time, not a timetable. They seek our patience, not political positioning. They require our resolve, not our retreat. This place also reminds us that our democratic processes rest on a foundation of order and security. Without security, democratic politics and economic development are impossible. That's why the first duty of government is to protect and defend the nation's security, its people, its borders, its interests and its values.

