

THE MIDDLE EAST EXPLAINED

A project of the Duke-UNC Consortium for Middle East Studies

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Video: The Iraq War: Causes and Ramifications

This video is recommended for use in advanced Middle School, and High School classrooms.

Video Overview

The modern histories of the United States and Iraq are closely intertwined. This 8 minute video explores the relationship between the two countries in the context of the Iraq Wars.

In 1990, Iraq invaded its smaller neighbor, Kuwait. In response, a coalition of nations declared war on Iraq and restored Kuwait to independence. Economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council as punishment for Iraq's annexation of Kuwait had major consequences on Iraqi society. About a decade later, believing that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), a United States-led coalition invaded Iraq in 2003 and overthrew the government of Saddam Hussein. The Iraq wars have had large impacts on Iraqis, Americans, and the greater Middle East region. Understanding the ramifications of the Iraq Wars on these groups provides insight into contemporary American policies in the Middle East and global international relations.

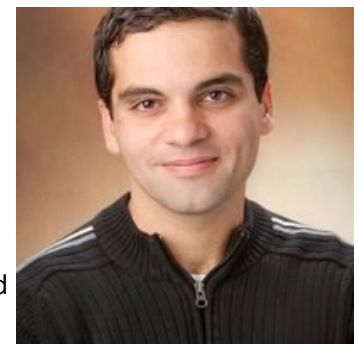
Learning Objectives

After watching this video, students will be able to:

- Explain the causes for United States involvement in the Iraq wars.
- Distinguish between the Gulf War and Iraq War.
- Describe how wars have long-lasting consequences for nations and civilians.
- Apply the enduring impact of the Iraq war to American foreign policy and relationship with the Middle East.

About the Speaker

Louis Yako is an Iraqi-American writer, poet, and public intellectual. Yako holds a B.A in English from the University of Baghdad, and a M.A. in English literature from Lehigh University. He is currently pursuing his PhD in cultural anthropology at Duke University. His research examines the relationship between academics and power in contemporary Iraq. Yako has presented many lectures on Iraq and the Middle East at a variety of American venues. His work has been published and translated in different American and international forums and magazines.



The **Duke-UNC Consortium for Middle East Studies** is a collaboration of the Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations and the Duke University Middle East Studies Center. As the recipient of a Title VI Middle East Studies grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the Consortium is a National Resource Center. Our Outreach Program supports K-12 and community college educators in deepening understanding of the Middle East through professional development trainings, local study tours, providing access to speakers, creating classroom resources, and more. *Visit us online at <http://ncmideast.org/outreach/>.*

Classroom Activities: The Iraq War: Causes and Ramifications

Materials/Resources Needed: “The Iraq War: Causes and Ramifications” video link:

(www.youtube.com/watch?v=ghzjhUgT850), copies of the Student Viewing Guide

Optional: Rather making copies for each student, teachers may project one copy of the discussion questions for the entire class.

Step 1: Explain that the United States has been at war with Iraq twice in recent decades; the Gulf War (1990-1991), and the Iraq War (2003-2011). Tell students that these two wars have had huge impacts on Iraqis and Americans.

Step 2: Pass out the Student Viewing Guide. Before playing the video, ask students to read through the key terms and timeline. Then, inform students that they will answer Comprehension Questions as they watch the video.

Differentiation: Divide students into small groups and assign questions to each group member. After the video, ask students to explain their answers to their small group.

Step 3: Play the video (please note that subtitles are available on YouTube if needed). Give students extra time after the video is complete to finish answering the Comprehension Questions on the Student Guide. Check for understanding by going over answers to the questions out loud as a class. Discuss key terms as a group. If you would like to explore additional key dates with your students, [The New York Times](#) and the [Council on Foreign Relations](#) both have interactive timelines of the Iraq War.

Step 4: To encourage further understanding, consider facilitating a class discussion or addressing the following points:

- What type of government was in place under Saddam Hussein?
- Why do countries impose economic sanctions? What other countries has the United States imposed sanctions on?
- Do you think it was a good idea for the United States to invade Iraq without being certain that the country had weapons of mass destruction? Why or why not?
- Considering the fragmented state of Iraq today, do the benefits of ousting Saddam Hussein outweigh the drawbacks? Justify your response.
- What does this video reveal about the lives of ordinary Iraqi citizens?

Assessment:

Informal Student Performance Assessment: Observation of each student participating in small group or class discussions.

Formal Assessment: Written student responses on the Student Viewing Guide. Good responses will demonstrate understanding of learning objectives.

Extension: After watching the video, further topics for exploration include: the impact of war on the availability of resources, the role of the international community in protecting citizens during times of war, debate over American involvement in Iraq, student and youth-led protests against involvement in the Iraq Wars, and the effect of American involvement in Iraq on international relations.