

Overview of Second Iraqi War

The Second Iraqi War began because the United States suspected Iraq of harboring weapons of mass destruction. These types of weapons, often associated with terrorist activities, became a hot topic after September 11, 2001. On September 11, 2001, terrorists hi-jacked four planes in the United States and flew two of those planes into the World Trade Center in New York and one into the Pentagon. The fourth plane crashed in Pennsylvania. After these attacks, President George W. Bush launched a campaign against terror, which included opposing nations suspected of aiding terrorists such as Iraq. As a result of these events, the United States went to war with Iraq in March of 2003. The United States quickly succeeded in ousting Saddam Hussein and his subordinates from leadership. Shortly thereafter, however, the war effort has stagnated for several reasons. First, American leadership has not been able to define what it means to win the war in Iraq. Second, because the enemy combatants in Iraq are insurgents, it is difficult to distinguish them from the general population and force them to surrender. Third, support in the United States for the war has waned. In early 2007 Congress began repeatedly called for the United States to leave Iraq. As a result of these factors, it appears that the war's only success in Iraq was to oust Saddam Hussein because no weapons of mass destruction had been found as of fall 2007.