

Rebuttals to the arguments for war.

It is urgent that we act now because Hussein may attack us at any time.

"The probability of him initiating an attack... in the foreseeable future, given the conditions we understand now, the likelihood I think would be low."

— Letter on behalf of CIA director George Tenet, quoting a senior intelligence witness

"So far as any of the information has been presented, there is nothing that indicates that in the immediate, next hours, next days, that there's going to be nuclear-tipped missiles put on launch pads to against our forces or our allies in the region."

— General Wesley Clark, former NATO commander

"The longer we wait, the stronger and bolder Saddam Hussein will become." —GW Bush

"The fact that he has missed every single airplane for 12 years and tens of thousands of sorties have been flown indicates the strength of our enemy."

— Rep Ron Paul, R-TX

"If it is so urgent, why are all the neighboring states—particularly Turkey, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia—opposed to military action?"

— Senator Lincoln Chafee, R-RI

"There is a virtual consensus in the world against attack at this time."

— Former National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft

You don't prevent anything by war...except peace.

— Harry Truman

"The risks of inaction are far greater than the risk of action" —Dick Cheney

"Baghdad for now appears to be drawing a line short of conducting terrorist attacks with conventional or C.B.W. [chemical and biological weapons] against the United States. Should Saddam conclude that a US-led attack could no longer be deterred, he probably would become much less constrained in adopting terrorist actions."

— Deputy CIA director John McLaughlin

"I do not accept the idea that trying other alternatives is either futile or perilous, that the risks of waiting are greater than the risk of war. Indeed, in launching a war against Iraq now, the United States may precipitate the very threat that we are intent on preventing—weapons of mass destruction."

— Senator Ted Kennedy, D-MA

"The alternative to a pre-emptive attack on Iraq is to let Saddam Hussein get stronger and stronger until he is bold enough to act" —Dick Cheney

"If other nations assert the same right, then the rule of law will quickly be replaced by the reign of fear."

— Former Vice President Al Gore

"It is a radical departure from traditions that have shaped our nation's policy by Democratic and Republican presidents for more than 50 years."

— Former President Jimmy Carter, winner of 2002 Nobel Peace Prize

"For more than 1,000 years there has been a doctrine and a definition of what... a just war is all about. And I think this effort and this plan to go to war comes up short of that doctrine."

— Rep. Ron Paul, R-TX

"We know that Iraq and al Qaeda have had high-level contacts that go back a decade." —GW Bush

"The Bush administration has not produced any evidence linking Iraq to the Sept. 11 attacks or to al Qaeda."

— The Miami Herald 8/26/02

"They have tried to link Iraq with various fundamentalist Islamic terrorist groups. But there is no history of complicity between the Baathist regime and Islamic fundamentalism. Iraq is a secular state... There is no national security threat, so we are talking about politics."

— Scott Ritter, former UN weapons inspector in Iraq

"Everybody understands that the old inspection regime did not work" —Colin Powell

"Saddam Hussein didn't kick the inspectors out. The US ordered the inspectors out 48 hours before they initiated Operation Desert Fox—military action that didn't have the support of the UN Security Council."

— Scott Ritter, former UN weapons inspector in Iraq

"The United Nations is much more likely to succeed if the United States is squarely behind its efforts, and not standing off at the side, secretly hoping it will fail."

— Senator James Jeffords, I-VT

"If one says, 'We want to attack you, and the inspectors don't mean anything anyway,' naturally they will refuse the inspectors."

— French President Jacques Chirac

"We now know that Saddam has resumed his efforts to acquire nuclear weapons" —Dick Cheney

"If Iraq was producing weapons today, we would have definitive proof."

— Scott Ritter, former UN weapons inspector in Iraq

But what if he does anyway?

So do Britain, China, France, India, Pakistan, Russia, Israel, the United States, and now North Korea.

We'll be in and out in a few days.

"US forces will certainly prevail, but at what cost? And at what cost as the rest of the world watches while we win and have military rounds exploding in densely populated Iraqi neighborhoods?"

— Retired US General John P. Hoar

In order to be a good journalist, one need remember only two words:
Governments Lie

— I.F. Stone, journalist

"The region will be safer and better off without Saddam Hussein" —Ari Fleischer

"Invasion of Iraq and the toppling of Saddam Hussein could well destabilize the geopolitics of the entire Middle East region. That is the realist argument against this war."

— Robert Kuttner, columnist

"The lives of Iraqi citizens would improve dramatically if Saddam Hussein were no longer in power" —GW Bush

"I'm not pro-government and I'm not a party member. But I'm telling you the truth. Whatever deficiencies we have here, government-wise, ruler-wise, it is our own problem. It is not a problem the United States is going to correct."

— Adil Ghaffour, Iraqi doctor

"Democracy cannot be imposed through military force, even if force is used successfully to oust antidemocratic dictators."

— Shibley Telhami, New York Times 10/7/02

"America is a friend to the people of Iraq" —GW Bush

"We have heard that half a million children have died [due to the US-backed sanctions]. I mean, that's more children than died in Hiroshima... is the price worth it?"

— Lesly Stahl, 60 Minutes

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www.afsc.org

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www.iacboston.org

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www.bostonmobilization.org

Boston Women's International League for Peace & Freedom
www.webforgirls.net/wilpf

Cambridge Peace Commission

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Freedom Road Socialist Organization

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Grassroots International
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Massachusetts Peace Action
www.gis.net/~masspa

National Lawyer's Guild
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