Unjustifiable War

It is not easy to understand how much $3,000,000,000,000 worth. With that money, everyone on this planet could have 300 Big Mac. In more practical way of usage, a bank would have to pay 30 billion dollars every year to a person who made deposit. However, the U.S government decided to spend this money on a war that had no righteousness, reason, and gain in 2003 (Katel 1). The decision they made is still impactful in current society; soldiers and police officers are being killed in combat against radical Jihadists, civilians are dying in terror attacks, and the national debt is rising. Some advocates still support the legitimacy of Iraq War and the war itself can be justified and the others who opposes the war criticize the decision made by Bush Administration to invade Iraq. Wright said that bringing democracy is the universal remedy for tyrant and its tyranny (24). The former U.S general Branford insisted that U.S has gained long term military base in Middle East by winning the Iraq War (5). Despite of these counterclaims, Iraq war is still not justifiable because of its ongoing aftermath and doubtful reasons of invasion.

The U.S led invasion of Iraq began in 2003 to neutralize potential threat of Weapons of Mass Destruction and connection between Saddam Hussein and Osama Bin Laden (qtd. In “Bush’s Speech”). The coalition led by U.S overwhelmed Iraqi force that was already weakened from previous Gulf War. The war ended in 2 weeks causing a few hundreds casualties from the
coalition and tens of thousands from Iraqi force (Prah 1). After months, interim Iraqi government has been established and American friendly politicians filled the empty seats at the council. The chaos from the war weakened the governmental control and its dependency on United States. After a few years since Iraq War has ended, the memory of war started to fade away from people’s mind little by little until they realize that the aftermath of Iraq War has already been affecting their life. The debt caused from the war shutted down economy of United States in 2008, thousands of young soldiers were killed while they stationed in Iraq which eventually U.S decided to withdraw all of its force, and terrorists groups such as ISIS has revolutionized themselves into a form of nation. Due to the war that cannot be justified, innocent people are paying more taxes, losing their sons and daughters, and live in the fear of terrorism. There is no doubt that the answer to the question of “Was U.S led invasion of Iraq justifiable and reasonable?” can only be “No, it was not”.

Furthermore, after the war, U.S could not sustain public order in Iraq due to its relatively small ground force compared to the size of Iraq and excessive expenditure from keeping the force stationed in Iraq. So U.S had set up an interim governments and supported them so that they can rebuild military force. However, the new puppet governments’ corrupty made the support meaningless (Abdul-Ahad). According to Islamic Network Groups, the former Iraqi soldier who were under the command and still loyal to Saddam Hussein joined ISIS to avoid punishments or trials after United States disarmed the force that was under Hussein’s control (ING 2). Otherwise, the new Iraqi regular army was not being supported from the interim governments; some divisions only exited on papers, remaining soldier considered themselves as salaried workers, and officers neglected intels and manipulated list of soldiers to get more aid
from the governments (Tharoor 11). In consequences, ISIS’s rapid taking over of Syrian and Iraqi land is mainly caused by U.S’s early departure and hasty disarmament of former Iraqi forces (Marcus 17). U.S gave opportunities to ISIS fast grow, and they already world widely spreaded out and blended into civilians. Starting from failing to take care of its residual, U.S lost its legitimacy on Iraq War long time ago.

The first factor that makes Iraq War cannot be justified is its aftermath -creation of the ISIS, Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, and United States is not free from the responsibility of creating ISIS. During the past half decade, the biggest problem of both Iraq and western countries has been Islamic State of Iraq and Syria because of Jihad which is overseas terrors toward soft targets such as concert, supermarkets, or even streets. By attacking not specified targets, ISIS succeeded in planting extreme fear and causing chaos in western world. Thus, it can be said that 2015 has been the most successful year for ISIS terrorizing overseas (Weiss and Hassan). For instance, in France, two ISIS jihadists shot sixteen people who had no potential threat to them. In November 13, a consecutive terror attacks killed more than 130 in Paris and it was the worst violence in France after World War II (Lister et.al). ISIS evolved into the most organized and disciplined jihadist group in Syria (Weiss and Hassan). For the first time in the modern history, a terrorist group overwhelmed hundreds thousands soldier of regular army and established its own nation and terrorizes western countries. Not only in western countries, but also millions of syrian and Iraqi civilians became refugees and those who failed to escape became either slaves of ISIS or corpses . In response, U.S had to form an alliance and pour more bombs that cost at least $20,000 on Iraq soil to extinguish urgent ISIS invasion and stop spreading. (U.S Navy)
The invasion of Iraq is unjustifiable because of its unreasonableness. In the most of conflicts in human history, they had valid reasons to be started with. The Independence War was based on eager for freedom and World War 1 was based on vengeance towards enemy who killed the prince. As other wars, Iraq War had its own reasons, but it was very unconvincing in that the announced reason –Neutralization of Weapon of Mass Destruction– of invasion was not realistic considering that Saddam Hussein had already lost the Gulf War and failed to recover military force. Julian Borger said that U.S intelligence agency such as C.I.A spent billions of dollars to investigate facilities and plants that might function as chemical or bio weapon factories and revealed that there were a few chemical plants left that has capacity of producing small amount of chemicals (1). Later in investigation, CIA Iraq Survey Group found out that Iraq had already lost its ability to manufacture Weapons of Mass Destruction in Gulf War and Saddam Hussein did not have specific plan to convert those facilities for military usage.

The official reason of Invasion of Iraq is also refuted by many scholars. According to Cramer, . Assistant Professor in University of Oregon Department of Political Science, from surveying hundreds of scholars, the most frequently selected reason of invasion was to adjust balance among Middle East countries (22) because Iraq had the 5th strongest army thanks to its oil money in 1990s (Broder and JEHL). Oil Interest was the second main reason of Invasion that was answered by scholars. The third reason was that Neoconservatives in U.S government was leading “Israel Lobby” to change regime of Iraq so that Israel do not turn against the U.S (Cramer 23). Considering it had been refuted by its own intelligence agency and scholars, U.S should have not invaded Iraq with such vulnerable legitimacy.
Lastly, but not leastly, U.S underestimated the effectiveness of dictatorship in Iraq. Saddam Hussein had committed many crimes against humanity. He was executed after being charged of massacre in Dujail village and death of 140 Iraqi civilians (Menendez 6). His reign of terror had definitely oppressed Iraqi people. However, according to John Nixon who is a CIA agent that interrogated Saddam Hussein after him being captured, Saddam Hussein’s excessive attachment to his regime eradicated potential threats against him such as ISIS. Rather than radically removing Saddam Hussein through war, United States should have negotiated with him so that U.S can use him as a tool to prevent rise of terrorists and he does not turn into a grave threat towards the national security. John Nixon who have interrogated Saddam Hussein commented his evaluation on Hussein after interrogation.

I do not think the rise of an organisation like ISIS would be possible under Saddam. Yes, he was distracted by other pursuits near the end, but he very rarely took his eye off of regime security. "He did many things poorly, but he kept a tight lid on threats from religious extremists. You would not see the spread of Iranian influence throughout the region the way it has recently. Saddam's Iraq was the greatest hedge against Iran. When we removed him, we did Iran a big favour. (PearlMan).

In addition, Iraq is consist of many tribes including Kurds and they are separated based on their religious beliefs, so Iraqi people do not have sense of nationhood (Thompson 3). Each tribes oppressed and were oppressed by each other, making harder for Iraqi ethnic groups to be united (Thompson 4). Since the democracy is based on majority rule, it cannot work when people or even a nation is hardly united. Controlled dictatorship would have been a better option for them than bringing democracy in sudden. There should have been more consideration of uniqueness in
It can never be said that Saddam Hussein was faultless or do not deserve punishment, but United States should have reconsidered why Iraq did not have problems such as ISIS or civil war while it was under Hussein’s regime and used him against terrorists.

On the other hand, there is compelling argument from the proponents of Iraq War that the war was not unjustifiable despite United States and United Nation failed to find Weapon of Mass Destruction in Iraq. The official reason of invasion was that Iraq had not been disarming its Weapon of Mass Destruction since the Gulf War and the potential threat has to be neutralized, and Iraq had trained and supported Al Qaeda soldiers and its operatives (qtd. in “Bush’s Speech”). Bush Administration considered bringing democracy and freedom were the universal remedies to tyranny and extremism (Wright 24). After expelling Saddam Hussein, Iraq established congress system and balanced the power between political parties. In addition, U.S was planning to have a long term military base in Middle East to expand its presence and check Russian force (Branford 5). Iraq’s government has turned into democratic and Americans were assigned as temporary operator of country (UNSC). Since these objectives were achieved, the proponents advocates that the war was worth of cost.

Despite of the advocacy, Bush administration's explanation of reasons about the war was already refuted by C.I.A and scholars. Other blind spot of these claims is that the new interim government was even worse than Saddam Hussein’s regime. After U.S departed Iraq, they could not stand on their own. The lack of ability to maintain public safety and military force has led the nation to be at stake, and corruption in public officers made democracy useless (Looney 424). Having a long term military base has also became meaningless. Bush and Obama Administration could not neglect increasing number of dead soldiers and expenses resulted from stationing
troops in Iraq. U.S pulled out its troops from Iraq starting in 2009 which was less than a decade, losing its influence and military bases in Middle East.

The legitimacy of U.S invasion of Iraq had been weak from the beginning. The justification of invasion and its evidence were not valid and doubtful, and turned out to be not true after CIA’s investigation as well as fail to earn support from scholars. The lack of reconsideration and estimating the uniqueness of Iraq ethnic groups and the necessity of dictatorship had brought Iraq to a slough of civil war and terrorism. U.S failed to treat the aftermath of the war creating and indirectly reinforcing ISIS’s human resources. Currently, ISIS has been losing its influence in Iraq and Iraq government is in the course of stabilization, but further feasible solution is urgently needed to prevent the second and third creation of ISIS such as restationing massive ground troops in Iraq. U.S has spilled too much unnecessary and innocent blood on Iraq soil. United States should have not started this unjustifiable war from the beginning.
Works Cited


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