

IRAQ AFTER SADDAM'S CAPTURE

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- Saddam Hussein's capture by U.S. forces is important for the Iraqi people because it means they no longer have to fear the dictator coming back to power
- Information gleaned from interrogating Hussein may help U.S. forces better deal with Iraqi insurgency, but it would be a mistake to assume that the insurgency is over or will end quickly
 - Hussein and those loyal to him comprise only one facet of the insurgency.
 - Baathists and other Sunnis are likely to continue to resist American military occupation and regime change because they perceive that they will be the losers in a new, U.S.-imposed government.
 - Other Iraqis – Shiites and Kurds – will also likely continue to chafe under U.S. military occupation
 - Islamic jihadists – al Qaeda or otherwise – are also part of the equation
 - These varied elements require different strategies and tactics to combat
- Saddam's capture does not change the fact that the Iraq war was the wrong war
 - Not because the United States used preemptive military force
 - Preemptive self-defense would have been justified in the face of a truly imminent threat
 - Not because the United States acted without the consent of the United Nations
 - No country should surrender its defense to a vote of other nations
 - Even if Iraq was in violation of UN Resolution 1441, the U.S. military does not exist to enforce UN mandates
 - Iraq was not a direct or imminent threat to the United States
 - WMD have yet to be discovered, but even if WMD are eventually found they were a threat that could be deterred
 - Saddam was deterred from using chemical and biological weapons against the U.S. in the first Gulf War
 - According to CIA director George Tenet: "Should Saddam conclude that U.S.-led attack could no longer be deterred, he probably would become much less constrained in adopting terrorist actions. Such terrorism might involve ... CBW [chemical or biological weapons]."
 - Hussein did not give chemical or biological weapons to anti-Israeli Palestinian terrorist groups that he supported and had no incentive to give such weapons to al Qaeda
 - President Bush concedes that "there is no evidence that Saddam Hussein was involved with September the 11th."
 - Other than a shared hatred of the United States, there was no affinity between Hussein and bin Laden
 - Hussein was a Muslim secular dictator

