

Draft

ACERSNow.org

Ally, effect Change, Educate, Reform & provide Solutions Now!

Summary of the U. S. Occupation and Attempted Colonization of Iraq

(Revised 5 June 2007)

A. Introduction

1. This paper has been written out of concern for the Armed Forces of the United States, the people of Iraq and the other countries in the Middle East, the economic, social and emotional costs of the conflict, the danger to our forces and their supply lines if Iran is attacked and the dire shortage of honest, courageous leadership and ideas as to what to do in Iraq as the situation continues to deteriorate.

2. Nothing in this document is intended to be a criticism of our courageous U.S. Military Troops.

3. Vice Admiral James Stockdale served on active duty in the regular navy for 37 years. Shot down on his third combat tour over North Vietnam, he was the senior naval prisoner of war in Hanoi for 7 ½ years. He received the medal of honor and 26 other combat decorations plus numerous civilian awards. In a speech and now in a booklet provided to all midshipmen at the Naval Academy, he said : *“I am convinced that holding the moral high ground is more important than firepower .. in war ... it is principally the moral forces which decide the outcome.”* Speaking of the Tonkin Gulf, Stockdale said: *“To take a nation to war on the basis of any provocation that smells of fraud is to risk losing national leadership Moral corners were cut in Washington in our top leaders’ interpretation of the events of August 4th at sea in order to get the Tonkin Gulf Resolution through Congress in a hurry. ... I knew for sure that our moral forces were squandered for short range goals.”*

4. **H.J.Res.114, the Joint Resolution To Authorize the Use of United States Armed Forces against Iraq**, approved by the House and Senate in October, 2002 was obtained by fraud and is very similar to the Tonkin Resolution.

5. Because the President and members of his administration went to war based on lies and fabricated intelligence to subjugate and gain control of Iraq’s oil, other resources and their economy, the U.S. is definitely not on the high ground in Iraq. The Iraq war/occupation is infinitely worse than the Vietnam war.

6. Saddam Hussein, as atrocious as he was, had nothing to do with Al Qaeda or 9/11 and had very little, if any, weapons of mass destruction. His secular Ba’athist state was hated by fundamentalist Muslims.

7. Saddam Hussein should have been indicted and tried in the International Criminal Court, in absentia if necessary, in the International Criminal Court in a just, orderly fashion that guaranteed continuity of the government in Iraq.

Draft

B. Bush/Cheney and others had Iraq invaded to help U.S. and UK oil companies gain control of Iraq's Oil and steal Iraqi oil profits¹ (not to get oil for the U.S. or to reduce the price of oil in the U.S.)

President Bush and Vice President Cheney et al (and others) wrongfully and unlawfully had Iraq attacked and invaded and continue to forcibly occupy and colonize Iraq because they want to control Iraqi's oil industry and reserves and help U.S. oil companies steal trillions of dollars of **oil profits**².

The amount of the profits will depend upon:

1. The amount of oil Iraq has in its reserves. Iraq probably has more than **400 billion barrels** of high-grade/high value crude oil and *may be the number one holder of oil reserves in the world* according to the U.S. State Department. *As world demand for oil increases and as oil reserves in other areas decline at a fast rate, oil in Iraq will represent a steadily-larger proportion of the world's total ... which could reach over 30% of total global reserves by mid-century or even before.*

2. The price per barrel of Iraq's oil. Iraq's oil is generally very high quality and high value oil *commands a premium on the world market.* Currently oil, such as that in Iraq, is selling for about \$68 per barrel. Considering increasing world-wide demands, the price of a barrel of Iraqi oil will probably average **at least \$65.** over the next few decades.

3. Production Cost. Iraq oil is extremely inexpensive to "produce". Most of Iraq's oil is under relatively high pressure from water and associated natural gas deposits, close to the surface and in enormous fields that can be tapped with very few, shallow wells and very little pumping energy. According to Oil and Gas Journal, *"Western oil companies estimate that they can produce a barrel of Iraqi oil for less than \$1.50 and possibly as little as \$1, including all exploration, oilfield development and production costs and including a 15% return."* Others estimate the cost as low as \$.61 per barrel.

This means that the profit will be about \$64 per barrel.

With an estimated 400 billion barrels of oil in the Iraqi reserves and assuming a conservative 80% recovery rate, means that potential profits from Iraq oil will be over \$20 trillion.

¹ Please note that many of the facts in this document are paraphrased or directly quoted, with permission, from the outstanding book The Bush Agenda: Invading the World One Economy at a Time by Ms. Antonia Juhasz. Both documents are recommended reading by anyone interested in Iraq, globalization, trade, economics, world peace, etc.

² The Iraq Oil Bonanza: Estimating Future Profits (January 28, 2004) I by James A. Paul, Global Policy Forum, <http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/oil/2004/0128oilprofit.htm>. Other information regarding oil in Iraq are from three additional articles by James A. Paul, at www.golbalpolicy.org:
Oil in Iraq: the Heart of the Crisis (December 2002)
Oil Companies in Iraq: A Century of Rivalry and War (November 2003),
<http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/oil/2003/2003companiesiniraq.htm>
Iraq: the Struggle for Oil (August, 2002)

Draft

All these profits belong to and should go to the Iraqi people. Iraq does not need the oil companies capital or help. Iraq has all the development capital it needs and they can use technical support type contracts that do not require payments as a percentage of profits.

Iraq would happily sell the oil companies, all the oil they want at market prices; however, the oil companies do not deserve and would not be able to get their hands on any of these profits.

Bush/Cheney et al are attempting to steal as much of the \$20 trillion as they can .

The below Summary of the Occupation describes how Bush/Cheney/Bremer, et al,:

1. Have literally taken over the economy of Iraq, rewritten their laws and constitution, installed a puppet regime and are managing the occupation from the White House and the “Green Zone” with U.S. personnel imbedded in most government departments, in particular, the oil ministry³.
2. Appear to have the power to decide which oil company gets which oil field.
3. Have institutionalized production sharing agreements (PSA's) which could extend for an unheard of 30 years with oil companies receiving as much as 75% of the profits with the remainder going to Iraq. These would earn massive profits for oil companies at the expense of the Iraqi people.
4. Have wrongfully and unlawfully had the laws of Iraq changed so that U.S. and other foreign oil companies would not have to pay taxes on these profits and could immediately transfer these profits out of Iraq and to their offices in countries other than the U.S. so that they would not pay U.S. taxes either. (As a matter of fact, U.S. oil companies would not even have to sell Iraqi oil to the United States and could control the price of oil by withholding Iraq oil from the U.S.)

Bush/Cheney et al still need two things for U.S. oil companies to get control of Iraqi oil and the profits:

1. Convince the Iraqi Parliament to enact the new National Petroleum law. This law which was written by U. S. government employees and contractors would unlawfully give mainly U.S. oil companies control of at least 64 percent and as much as 87 percent of the Iraqi oil reserves⁴. The law has been approved by the Council of Ministers and is awaiting approval by parliament. Most Iraqis and the powerful oil workers union oppose this law and any form of de-nationalization of the oil reserves.

³ The Iraq War's Oil Timeline by Antonia Juhaz, <http://www.leftturn.org/?q=node/384>

⁴ *According to a new report by Greg Muttitt of the London-based research organization Platform, Iraq's new law allows for currently producing oil fields—17 out of 80 known fields—to be developed by Iraq's National Oil Company, while all new fields—63 out of 80 known fields—would be opened to private oil companies using PSAs, giving private companies control of at least 64 percent of Iraq's known reserves. If a further 200 billion barrels of oil are found in Iraq, as Iraq's Oil Ministry predicts, foreign companies could control 87 percent of Iraq's oil.*

Draft

2. Congress appropriations of taxpayers money for U.S. troops and mercenaries to provide security on the ground for the oil companies and to protect the Bush/Cheney et al puppet regime in the Green zone and other enclaves. Since Iraqi soldiers and policeman seem to not be all that willing to get killed to help Americans steal their oil, their performance is uncertain, and therefore Bush/Cheney will not agree to U.S. troop or security guards (mercenaries) withdrawals no matter how many Iraqi's and American killed and how much of Iraq is destroyed.

Language in the H.R. 1591 - the Supplemental Spending ACT, which was vetoed by President Bush and in the current act passed by the house pressure Iraq to pass the new National Petroleum Law and provides taxpayers money for U.S. troops and mercenaries in gross violation of the Hague Regulations of 1907, UN Resolution 1483 and other treaties and laws.

C. The Unconstitutionality and Illegality of the Iraq War/Occupation and the So Called War on Terror

The below excerpts from the article *The Constitution Limits the President Even as "Commander in Chief"*, by Dr. Edwin Vieira, Jr., Ph.D., J.D. of February 20, 2006 (Available at <http://www.newswithviews.com/Vieira/edwin32.htm>.) makes it clear that:

1. **H.J.Res.114, the Joint Resolution To Authorize the Use of United States Armed Forces against Iraq**, approved by the House and Senate in October, 2002 is unconstitutional, null and void.
2. The Iraqi "war/occupation", use of force by the CIA or by U.S. paid contract security guards/mercenaries are unconstitutional and illegal.
3. Without a formal declaration of war, Congress does not have the authority to authorize or legally appropriate money for the president to use force or conduct any military operations in Iraq or any country in the world.

The President, even as "Commander in Chief," has *a circumscribed and contingent authority dependent upon mandates from Congress not some limitless "inherent" power*

Merely labeling some situation a "war" cannot call the President's rightful powers as "Commander in Chief" into operation

according to strict constitutional logic, a "war on terror" is an existential impossibility--if only because "terror" is a tactic, not a country; and "terrorists" do not constitute one or more independent nations, but at most are mere bands of private criminals.

Congress has never exercised its constitutional power ... to declare a "war on terror."

Congress has not declared "war" on Iraq, either

This absence of Congressional action is consequential, because only Congress has the power

Draft

"[t]o declare War." And the Constitution plainly understands that, absent such a declaration from the only source authorized to pronounce it, a "War" cannot be conducted legally by the United States.

the Constitution denies the President any pretense of power himself either "[t]o declare War" or to involve this country in actions usually appropriate only after such a declaration has been made. (For example, ordering American soldiers intentionally to kill the soldiers of some other nation, ...)

an attack by one nation upon another independent nation not justified by "the common defence" of the former constitutes a crime under international law, as settled at the Nuremberg and Tokyo War Crimes Trials."

a declaration of "War" by the United States against some other nation in the course of "the war on terror" ... certainly cannot be rationalized by an airy appeal to "spreading democracy" in foreign lands. ... Nowhere does the Constitution empower the United States to further naked "democracy," either at home or abroad, by any means, let alone "War."

Neither could a declaration of "War" be justified simply on the grounds of defending some other country.

even if the leaders of some other nation were planning to attack the United States in the indefinite future, a declaration of "War" now would be beyond Congress's power. ... preemptive war has been considered illegal for several hundred years.

Nowhere does the Constitution empower Congress to exercise "force" itself, or to license the President to do so.

because he is "Commander in Chief" "of the land and naval Forces" and of "the Militia of the several States," the President is bound by such rules and regulations Congress provides for those entities.

*If the President does disregard or violate any valid Congressional directive or prohibition relating to "the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces" or the Militia, then to that extent he fails to perform his duty to "take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed.". If his failure is intentional, the President violates his "Oath or Affirmation * * * that [he] will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of [his] Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States." Such perjury constitutes a "high Crime[]" for which the President may--and should--be impeached, convicted, and "removed from Office."*

The case is even clearer if the agency involved in the President's misdeeds ... is a purely civilian agency, such as the NSA. ... a civilian agency is entirely a creature of Congress, which Congress may create or refuse to create, and to which it may give such powers, or from which it may withhold such powers, on such conditions, as it chooses. With respect to such an agency, the

Draft

President enjoys no authority other than what Congress delegates to him--and self-evidently no power that Congress withholds. ... Should the President venture one Angstrom Unit beyond the boundaries of the statute that creates the agency and defines its authority, he would not be "tak[ing] Care that the Laws be faithfully executed." And if this misstep were intentional, he would be subject to impeachment, conviction, and removal from office

"self-defense"--whether on the part of an individual or a nation--is a specific legal conception, not a open-ended license simply to shoot first and ask questions later. At the minimum, the use of deadly force in self-defense is justified only in response to some imminent, unavoidable peril. The defender must employ only the amount of force reasonably necessary to stop the attacker. And the defender must cease the use of force when the threat has been thwarted, not continue to apply, let alone to escalate, force so as to turn his own actions from self-defense into aggression.

Moreover, even self-defense would not necessarily entail "War," unless Congress so declared.

the contention that "the war on terror," as it is being waged, has any sound constitutional basis at all is bogus.

Congress cannot authorize the President to take any actions that violate the guarantees of, say, the Second, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Eight Amendments. Neither can the President's own powers (whatever they may be) override these, or any other, constitutional limitations.

the President cannot have "inherent" authority to declare anyone to be an "enemy combatant," without recourse to judicial review.

In sum, the arguments that all too many "conservative" media personalities typically put forward these days to infuse the Presidency with Fuhrer-like powers are the products of constitutional illiteracy. They are, however, not just nonsense, but extremely dangerous nonsense--because they will surely be trotted out in the future in support of a comprehensive police state

"situation constitutionalism"--the notion that the Constitution may be creatively interpreted to fit some immediate political agenda, rather than all political agendas being required to square with the original intent of the Constitution--is a Sirens' song that will surely lure America's ship of state onto the rocks of destruction. And far sooner than most Americans imagine.

D. IRAQ BEFORE THE WAR

Since the beginning of the Bush Administration, Iraq has been pictured as a lawless, country with a floundering economy. Actually, Iraq has had a constitution since 1924. Their 1924 constitution was written by the British and used by the British to exploit Iraq's oil for years.

The Iraq Constitution, rewritten in 1970, before Saddam Hussein came to power:

1. Resembled the U.S. Constitution in many ways.
2. Provided freedom of religion, expression and association
3. Guaranteed equality before the law for all citizens without discrimination of sex, blood,

Draft

language, social origin or religion.

4. Guaranteed a free education through the university level and access to maternal, child, and medical care for all. (Not only were these services guaranteed, they were delivered.)

Prior to the first Gulf War, even after 8 years of war with Iran:

1. Iraq was ranked 15th out of 130 countries on the 1990 UN Human Development Index.

2. Iraq had the highest percentage of college-educated citizens in the Middle East and above average overall literacy rates.

3. 97% of Iraq's urban population and 78% of rural residents had health care coverage.

4. Iraq's infant mortality rate was well below average for developing countries.

5. Ninety per cent of Iraq's population had access to an abundant quantity of safe drinking water.

6. Iraq was a country of laws, public services, education, and health care that was able to succeed in spite of Saddam Hussein, because:

a. Iraq had *a government, and economic structure made functional by a knowledgeable and dedicated citizenry*.

b. Iraq's oil industry and reserves had been nationalized by Saddam Hussein so that a good part of the oil profits went to health care, education, etc. of the people of Iraq.

7. Iraq was selling and willing to continue selling oil at market rates to the U.S. However, oil company and the so called neo-cons wanted more than just oil – they wanted massive profits and control over the oil.

8. Saddam Hussein should have been indicted and tried, in absentia if necessary, in the International Criminal Court in a just, orderly fashion that insured continuity of the government in Iraq and stability in the Middle East.

The Iraqi War

1. The subterfuge by the Bush Administration leading up to the war is well covered in several books, news articles and other documents.

2. On March 17, 2003, President Bush, in violation of International Law, ordered massive bombing and missile attacks (called shock and awe) on Iraq and an invasion of Iraq.

3. On March 20, 2003 US-UK forces invaded Iraq, seizing the major oilfields and refineries almost immediately. When coalition forces later entered Baghdad, they set a protective cordon around the Oil Ministry, while leaving all other institutions unguarded, allowing looting and burning of other government ministries, hospitals and cultural institutions. Looters sacked the National Museum and burned a wing of the National Library, but the Oil Ministry stood relatively unscathed, with its thousands of valuable seismic maps safe for future oil exploration.

4. Every step in the early post-war period confirmed the centrality of oil, not as an Iraqi national resource to be protected, but as a spoil of war to be controlled. Now, many months after the war,

Draft

the picture remains the same⁵.

5. On or about March 20, 2003, the first contracts for rebuilding post-war Iraq were awarded, and Vice President Dick Cheney's old employer, Haliburton Co., was one of the early winners.

6. On May 1, 2003, Bush announced "Mission Accomplished in Iraq" and the occupation of Iraq began.

The Iraqi Occupation.

1. Every step in the early post-war period confirmed the centrality of oil, not as an Iraqi national resource to be protected, but as a spoil of war to be controlled. Now, years after the war, the picture remains the same⁶.

2. On January 20, 2003, Jay Garner, a retired army Lieutenant General, had been named head of the U.S. Defense Department's Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance (ORHA). The staff of ORHA designed and planned the administration of postwar Iraq in detail. The ORHA plan called for the U.S. led occupation government of Iraq to last no more than three months.

3. On April 21, 2003, two weeks after the "fall of Baghdad," Garner and his ORHA staff had arrived in Iraq.

4. On May 6, 2003, President Bush fired General Jay Garner and appointed L. Paul Bremer III, to be Bush's Presidential Envoy to Iraq and the Administrator of the U.S. led Iraqi Occupation Government, the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA). President also replaced ORHA with the CPA and Bremer and the subjugation of Iraq began.

5. The reason behind the replacements exposes a good deal about the Bush Agenda in Iraq.

6. Garner told BBC reporter Greg Palast, "My preference was to put the Iraqis in charge as soon as we can, and do it with some form of elections. . . . I just thought it was necessary to rapidly get the Iraqis in charge of their destiny." As a retired army lieutenant general who had overseen assistance to the Kurds in Northern Iraq after the first Gulf War Garner knew that the longer the United States appeared to be in charge, the more antipathy toward the United States would grow and expose U.S. troops to greater danger. Garner also disagreed with many of the Bush administration's more radical economic proposals, such as full privatization of Iraq's 192 state-owned enterprises, arguing that the Iraqis should be in charge of determining their own economic fate. Apparently, this attitude met with disapproval among his superiors in the administration, and Garner was summarily fired.

7. Unlike General Jay Garner, Paul Bremer, a former corporate consultant with no specific experience in Iraq, had no qualms about remaking Iraq and its economy in accordance with the Bush/Cheney agenda. After replacing Garner, Bremer wasted little time laying the foundation for U.S. subjugation of the economy, institutions, politics, etc. of Iraq.

⁵ Oil Companies in Iraq: A Century of Rivalry and War (November 2003), <http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/oil/2003/2003companiesiniraq.htm>

⁶ Oil Companies in Iraq: A Century of Rivalry and War (November 2003), <http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/oil/2003/2003companiesiniraq.htm>

Draft

8. Bush's Presidential Envoy to Iraq and the Administrator of the U.S. led Iraqi Occupation Government, the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), L. Paul Bremer III:

a. A former corporate consultant, had no specific experience, education or training in Iraq security, policing, the military, or occupying a country.

b. Had full authority over the CPA and full executive, legislative, and judicial authority over Iraq and its people.

c. Controlled most of the funding for Iraq and had signature authority from the President of the United States. *Nothing happened without his agreement* according to a UN official

d. Did not have an exit strategy or exit plan because Bush, Cheney, Bremer had no intention of leaving Iraq. However, they did have a secretive, extensive economic plan for post-war Iraq developed at least six months before the invasion. On February 21, 2003, executives of Bearing Point had delivered this plan, which Bremer used to:

i. Manage the occupation and attempts to economically subjugate and colonize Iraq.

ii. Gain control of Iraq oil and oil profits for U. S. Oil companies, the opening of Iraq to U.S. corporations, the advance of the neo-con agenda, etc.; but, not on the provision of basic security and basic services, e.g. water, electricity, hospitals, as required by the Hague Regulations and Geneva Convention .

iii. Change and made law by issuing one hundred Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) regulations referred to as the "Bremer Orders".

9. **With his orders, Bremer, among other things:**

- Fired 120,000 of Iraq's most experienced and highest ranking civil servants, which, after about five months, caused the government to slide into a state of total disarray.
- Disbanded the Iraqi military, refused to continue to pay their salaries, handed security and reconstruction work to private U.S. companies, turning 2.4 million Iraqis, including soldiers' families, against the U.S., all in the first month of the occupation.
- Institutionalized production sharing agreements (PSA's) which could extend for an unheard of 30 years with oil companies receiving as much as 75% of profits with the remaining going to Iraq. These would earn massive profits for oil companies while costing the Iraqi people hundreds of billions of dollars.
- Except for the oil reserves and industry, privatized most the rest of Iraq's resources and state-owned enterprises. (Note that as of early late May 2007, the U.S. continues to illegally pressure the government of Iraq to pass the new petroleum law written by Bearing Point under contract with the U.S. which would turn over as much as 87% of Iraqi oil reserves)
- Allows for 100% of ownership of Iraq's businesses by non-Iraqis by overriding Iraqi ownership laws.
- Allowed unrestricted, tax-free remittance of all profits and other funds away from Iraq by foreign corporations.
- Provided the right for corporations to take legal disputes out of Iraq's courts and into international tribunals.

Draft

- Suspended *all tariffs, customs duties, import taxes, licensing fees and similar surcharges for goods entering or leaving Iraq*. This led to an immediate inflow of cheap foreign products, vegetables, wheat, etc., which devastated local producers and sellers.
- Gained control over telecommunications, broadcasting, information services, and other forms of media in Iraq and heavily censored the media, padlocked and left newspapers in ruin, etc.
- Granted full immunity from Iraqi laws and the Iraqi legal system to Coalition Military Forces and all foreign contractors.
- Gave foreign contractors freedom from all income taxes, corporate taxes, and sales taxes.
- Replaced Iraq's progressive tax strategy with a flat tax.
- Created a U.S. "corporate haven," - a model and starting point for the rest of the region.
- Placed American representatives in key decision-making positions within each government ministry, to ensure its indirect rule over Iraq.
- Established a commission that gave the Bush Administration the power to disqualify political parties and their candidates from participating in Iraqi elections.

10. **Bremer was well aware** of what his policies would do to Iraq and its people. In a November 2001 paper "*New Risks in International Business*," Bremer:

- Outlined the risks to multinational corporations associated with the implementation of corporate globalization policies.
- Walked through the devastating impacts of each policy on local populations. Warned companies that the *painful consequences of globalization are felt long before its benefits are clear*.
- Explained that privatization of basic services almost always leads to price increases for those services, which in turn often leads to protests or even physical violence against the operator.
- Said globalization has a very disparate effect on incomes, which causes political and social tensions.
- Said that the elimination of trade protections destroys small companies and causes enormous pressures on retailers.

11. The policies that Bremer described in his 2001 report as being devastating to a country were among those he himself implemented.

- President Bush also appointed Phil Carroll, a former high-ranking US oil executive, to assume control of Iraq's oil industry.
- On May 22, Bush issued Executive Order 13303 giving immunity to oil companies for all activities in Iraq and deals involving Iraqi oil.
- On May 22, 2003, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1483 which, among other things:
 - Recognized the U.S. and UK *as occupying powers with specific authorities, responsibilities, and obligations under applicable international law*.

Draft

- Stressed *the right of the Iraqi people to freely determine their own political future and control their own natural resources, ... and expressed resolve that the day when Iraqis govern themselves must come quickly.*
- Stressed *the need for respect for the archaeological, historical, cultural, and religious heritage of Iraq, and for the continued protection of archaeological, historical, cultural, and religious sites, museums, libraries, and monuments.*
- Called upon the U.S. and UK, *to promote the welfare of the Iraqi people ... including in particular, working towards the restoration of conditions of security and stability and the creation of conditions in which the Iraqi people can freely determine their own political future.*
- Called upon the U.S. and the UK *to comply fully with their obligations under international law including in particular the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Hague Regulations of 1907.*

12. The Geneva Conventions and the Hague Regulations, both ratified by the U.S. are, along with the U.S. Constitution, *the supreme Law of the Land* and require, among other things, that:

- The people of the occupied country and *prisoners of war must at all times be humanely treated.* The legal definition of "humane" is: *Kind, tender, compassionate. Disposed to eliminate the cause of suffering of man or beast.*
- An occupying power *take all the measures in his power to restore, and ensure, as far as possible, public order and safety, while respecting unless absolutely prevented, the laws in force in the country.*
- An occupying country is required to ensure functioning electricity, potable running water, safe streets, and that the basic necessities of life are provided and is not permitted to make changes in the country's law beyond those absolutely necessary to meet these obligations.

13. The New Iraq Constitution

- On October 13, 2005, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, Zalmay Khalilzad, and Iraqis selected by the Bush Administration secretly rewrote key provisions of the new Iraqi Constitution.
- The contents of the newly revised Constitution and the fact that it had been revised were not made public.
- There were no debates or discussions and elected officials did not see the final version until after it was voted on in the National Referendum on October 15, 2005.
- Ratification of the Constitution locked in most of the "Bremer Orders."
- *The new constitution also created a country where religion is substantially intermingled with the government - a formula for disaster. In a heterogeneous country like Iraq the government will NOT succeed unless it is officially secular⁷.*

14. Consequences of the War & U.S. and Bremer's Actions

⁷ From the article *the Path to a Stable Iraq* by Kamal Nawash

Draft

By focusing efforts on changing Iraq's laws, "privatizing " Iraq's resources, industries and businesses, the opening of Iraq to U.S. corporations, the advance of the Bush Agenda, etc, instead of the immediate provision of basic security and basic services (e.g. water, electricity, hospitals),
Bremer:

- Caused much of the strife in Iraq today.
- Led to the destruction of much of the foundations of the Iraqi economy and social structure.
- Brought Iraqi development to a standstill in many areas.
- Caused the death and injury of scores of thousands of innocent civilians.

15. Iraq has a multi-ethnic heterogeneous society with three very large groups (Sunni Arabs, Shia Arabs, and Kurds) and numerous smaller groups . Although many members of the three largest groups can be found in other parts of the country, in particular Bagdad, they generally live in three jurisdictions formally established by the new Iraqi Constitution⁸:

- Kurds mainly in the oil rich North and are now behaving like they live in a separate country.
- Shia Arabs mainly live in the oil rich south.
- Sunni Arabs mainly live in the center of Iraq which is resource poor. Sunni Arabs:
 - Ruled Iraq off and on for many years and held many responsible positions in the Iraqi government before the U.S. invasion. After the invasion, they lost almost all significant political and economic power shifted to the American supported Shias and Kurds.
 - Most did not support Saddam Hussein.
 - Disproportionately affected by debathification, the process by which Bremer and the Iraqi government fired and would not hire members of the former ruling Baath party Sunnis, who argue that their membership was out of necessity, therefore it is not fair to target them.
 - Want Iraq to remain united, intact and have a secular government.
 - Now feel that the new government does not represent their interests and have responded to their marginalization with a deadly uprising that has resisted all efforts to quell it through military means.

16. The Iraq Study Group Report released in November 2006, after the election, was written to help U.S. and UK oil companies gain control of Iraq's Oil and steal Iraqi oil profits - not to get oil for the U.S. or to reduce the price of oil in the U.S.

a. It mentions oil over 65 times.

b. It states that "*the United States should assist Iraqi leaders to reorganize the national oil industry as a commercial enterprise*" and recommends using U.S. Military personnel to protect the oil industry. This means privatizing and unlawfully putting almost all of Iraq's oil industry, oil

⁸ Most of the information in this section is paraphrased from the article, the *Path to a Stable Iraq* by Kamal Nawash

Draft

reserves and profit from oil sales under the control of U.S. and British oil companies so that these oil companies would realize a potential profit of trillion dollars.

c. It provides description of the deplorable conditions in Iraq, the very poor condition of the Iraqi army and the even worse condition of the Iraqi police force and states:

- i. *Only 36 percent of Iraqis feel their country is heading in the right direction.*
- ii. *Seventy-nine percent of Iraqis have a "mostly negative" view of the influence that the United States has in their country.*
- iii. *Sixty-one percent of Iraqis approve of attacks on U.S.- led forces.*
- iv. *If Iraqis continue to perceive Americans as representing an occupying force, the United States could become its own worst enemy in a land it liberated from tyranny.*

17. ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN IRAQ

Our military is spread much too thin. There are more terrorists in the world now. America is less secure.

As of the middle of May, 2007, over 3,400 U.S. service members have been killed and over 24,000 seriously wounded. Over 500,000, Iraqis (mostly innocent civilians and children) have been killed.

The abominable war/occupation has already directly cost U.S. taxpayers over \$357 billion, funds that are desperately needed for services for working Americans (e.g. adopting alternative energy sources, creating new domestic jobs, rebuilding infrastructure of American cities, education, health care, protecting our environment, etc.).

CONCLUSIONS:

1. The invasion and occupation of Iraq has and is continuing to:
 - a. Cause the unnecessary deaths and maiming of United States servicemen and Iraqis.
 - b. Cause massive damage to the infrastructure, buildings, hospitals, homes, mosques, bridges, waterways, etc. of Iraq.
 - c. Seriously harm the defense, security and reputation of the United States.
 - d. Contribute to instability in the Middle East.
 - e. Generate more terrorist than are being killed or detained.
 - f. Contribute to increasing fuel and energy costs.
 - g. Decrease availability and security of world energy resources.
 - h. Contribute to budget deficits and increased government debt.

Draft

2. Absent a formal declaration of war, the U. S. Constitution prohibits:
 - a. Congress authorizing the President to use the United States Armed Forces, private security guards and the CIA against Iraq, to conduct clandestine operations in Iraq, to use any form of force in Iraq, to occupy Iraq, etc.
 - b. The President using the United States Armed Forces, private security guards and the CIA against Iraq, conducting clandestine operations in Iraq or using any form of force in Iraq, occupying Iraq, etc.
 - c. Prohibits Congress authorizing any funds to use the United States Armed Forces against Iraq, to conduct clandestine operations in Iraq, to use any form of force in Iraq, to occupy Iraq, etc.
3. Senior U.S. officials wrongfully and unlawfully :
 - a. Lied about the reasons for invading and occupying Iraq
 - b. Had Iraq invaded and occupied because they wanted to help U.S. and UK oil companies illegally control as much as possible of Iraq's oil industries and reserves and to help U.S. and UK oil companies take as much as possible of the trillions of dollars of Iraqi oil profits. This war is not just about ensuring the U.S. has a supply of oil –Iraq would happily sell oil to the U. S. at market prices.
 - c. Have focused efforts on Iraq oil and the opening of Iraq to U.S. corporations, not on the immediate provision of basic security and basic services, e.g. water, electricity, hospitals, as required by the Hague Regulations
 - d. Rewrote the Constitution of Iraq and changed the laws of Iraq so that U.S. and other foreign oil companies would not have to pay taxes on these profits and could immediately transfer these profits out of Iraq and to their offices in countries other than the U.S. so that they would not pay U.S. taxes. (As a matter of fact, U.S. oil companies would not even have to sell Iraqi oil to the United States and could increase the price of oil at will by withholding Iraq oil from the U.S.)
 - e. Keeping U.S. Armed Forces and defense contractors in Iraq to provide security for and help U.S. oil companies control Iraq's oil industries and reserves and reap massive profits from Iraq's oil sales because they are afraid that Iraq will nationalize all their oil reserves if U.S. forces leave.
 - f. Have violated various U.S. and Iraqi laws, the Geneva Convention, Hague Regulations, UN Security Council Resolution 1483 of May 22, 2003, and other international laws, etc.
4. Certain members of Congress have wrongfully and unlawfully appropriated taxpayers money to be used to:

Draft

- a. Purchase munitions to kill, maim, abuse, detain and subjugate Iraqis
 - b. To pay private security contractors (including mercenaries) to provide security for the Iraq oil ministries, U.S. Oil companies and war profiteers but not the museums and mosques in Iraq.
 - c. Pay the salaries of the senior officials who planned and executed this illegal and immoral war and the theft of Iraqi oil.
 - d. Provide the dogs used to abuse detainees.
 - e. Rewrite the laws and the Constitution of Iraq in violation of the Hague Regulations of 1907 and the Geneva Conventions
 - f. Create and maintain illegal prisons in Iraq, Guantanamo and around the world.
 - g. Build a number of permanent military bases to occupy Iraq indefinitely
 - h. Fund illegal, non-competitive contracts that have wasted billions of dollars of taxpayers dollars.
5. On April 24, 2007, Congress enacted legislation to wrongfully and unlawfully:
- a. Appropriate additional funds for these immoral, illegal acts.
 - b. Force the Iraqi parliament to pass the New Hydro-Carbon Law which would give control of up to 84 percent of Iraqi oil reserves and trillions of dollars of oil profits to foreign, primarily U.S. oil companies with minimal investments which the Iraqi's do not need.
6. On April 25, 2007, President Bush signed this legislation into law.
7. Iraq can easily use management and technical service type contracts to hire individuals to do any needed work instead of having large oil companies do it.
8. Congress has not provided any meaningful oversight over the current administration or the Iraq war.
9. The people of the U.S. are paying for the war with their lives, maimed bodies and taxes and having to paying salaries and expenses of the legislators who vote for more war spending. The people of the U.S. also pay over twice as much for a gallon of gasoline as they did six years ago.
10. Oil companies, defense contractors and other war profiteers are reaping massive profits from the war. Executives and employees from these companies are donating more and more to many representatives and senators and other elected officials under the guise of campaign contributions.

Draft

11. Appropriating funds for the illegal and immoral war/occupation of Iraq is a war crime and a crime against humanity. Accepting campaign donations from war profiteers is crime of moral turpitude.
12. The insurgency in Iraq has been and is being fueled by:
 - a. The killing and maiming of scores of thousands of innocent Iraqis including women and children.
 - b. The wrongful and unlawful abuse, detention, torture and murder of Iraqis.
 - c. The massive damage to the infrastructure, buildings, hospitals, homes, mosques, bridges, waterways, etc. of Iraq.
 - d. The fact that Iraq was illegally invaded and is being occupied so that U.S. and U.K. oil companies can wrongfully take control of as much as possible of Iraq's massive oil reserves and reap massive profits from the sale of Iraq oil.
 - e. The prolonged, wrongful and unlawful occupation of Iraq by the United States.
 - f. The prospect of a very long-term U.S. military presence in Iraq as indicated by the building of permanent United States military bases and refusal to have a timeline for withdrawal of U. S. Forces.
 - g. United States senior officials siding with and providing offensive weapons to Israel and supporting Israel's prolonged and brutal occupation of Palestinian territories
 - h. The natural tendency of individuals to resist tyranny, colonization and aggression.
13. The people of Iraq and their supporters have a right to resist aggression and attempts to take their resources.
14. All of Iraq's industries, oil reserves, other resources, etc. belong to the Iraqi people.
15. The United States has a considerable responsibility to the people of Iraq.
16. Most Iraqis want the U.S. to withdraw. The longer our troops remain in Iraq the worse it will get. The U.S. military and privateers in Iraq are a provocation and the greatest obstacle to achieving any kind of political settlement there, and the greatest threat to our own national security. *Opinion polls in Iraq show that the occupation has become increasingly and decisively unpopular. Even polls commissioned by the US and UK governments demonstrate clearly that a large majority of Iraqis are critical and favor a speedy withdrawal. By a large margin, Iraqis now feel that the occupation increases insecurity and sectarian violence. More than ever, Iraqis overwhelmingly want the occupation to end.*
17. The United States cannot abruptly depart from Iraq nor can U.S. troops remain in populated

Draft

areas where they are not wanted or needed.

18. Any further military action by and even the presence of U. S. Troops in Iraq, will make matters worse.
19. The longer it takes to make a decision to withdraw from Iraq, the more lives will be lost.
20. A timely U.S. military withdrawal is in Iraq's and the United States' best interest.
21. The U.S. must make amends for its mistakes.
22. No country in the region will benefit, from chaos in Iraq.
23. This is not the first time the United States has made serious mistakes in other countries, but it must be the last.
24. Neo-cons and some multinational corporations are attempting to implement similar policies all over the world through so called “free trade” agreements, by taking over and/or bullying international organizations, bribing officials, lobbying with campaign contributions, etc.
25. We cannot allow the Iraq conflict, war profiteering, nuclear proliferation and the Israel-Palestine situation to continue. We must continue work to understand the underlying causes of these problems and solve them.
26. Until the United States takes responsibility, makes considerable amends and completely withdraws from Iraq, the U.S. will have essentially no credibility in the world community.
27. A high percentage of the Iraqi much of the world has lost confidence in President Bush and his administration and the United States.
28. The path to a stable Iraq can ONLY result from political and economic, not military solutions, in which all the parties have a stake in the new Iraq
29. If the U.S. does withdraw, are just and stop siding with Israel, the insurgents “will not follow the U.S. home” and Al Qaeda will leave or be forced out of Iraq.
30. United States Armed Forces should not be abruptly withdrawn from Iraq.
31. United States Armed Forces must have a plan for a rapid withdrawal.
32. Offensive and clandestine operations in Iraq or Iran by U.S. Forces and security contractors are illegal and should cease immediately.
33. Timely, fair, fully creditable regional and national elections so that true democratic self rule can be put into place must be held without the presence or influence of the U.S.

Draft

34. The United States, as an "occupying power ", has specific obligations under the Geneva Conventions, the Hague Regulations and UN Security Council Resolution 1483, all of which the U.S. must live up to. The United States cannot leave an unstable Iraq in shambles.
35. President Bush's reasoning ability and his judgment are faulty and dangerous. He will resist redeploying or withdrawing U.S. forces until the new oil law is passed and US oil companies have secure access to Iraq's oil which will never happen.
36. The Iraqi's and most of the other people in the Middle East do not and will never trust Bush and members of his administration. Bush and members of his administration must be replaced.
37. The surge is not working and will not work. Security sweeps have taken a heavy toll on US forces. Since the February 14, 2007 start of the US-led offensive, deaths among American soldiers climbed 21 percent in Baghdad compared with the previous two months.
38. The United Nations:
 - a. Is well equipped to assist with political processes, help build a political consensus and reach agreements among the Iraqi parties and factions and other countries in the Middle East.
 - b. Has the ability and legitimacy to authorize and field an appropriate international peace-keeping mission, transition to international peace-keepers and help withdraw United States Armed Forces and civilian military contractors in a just, peaceful and timely manner.
39. The insurgency will be dampened, the stage set for negotiations, and the violence subside and over time end, if the United States:
 - a. Sincerely apologizes to the Iraqis and promise to make amends, pay dearly for the Iraqi's killed, maimed and illegally detained and the damage caused Iraq, treat Iraqi's as equals, respect the fundamental rights of Iraqis, and return sovereignty, the control of all oil reserves and other resources to the people of Iraq, etc.
 - b. In coordination with the Iraqi government announces and follows through with plans to:
 - i. Execute an immediate unilateral cease fire and halt in all offensive and clandestine operations by U.S. Armed forces, CIA agents, private security contractors and others.
 - ii. Immediately redeploy U.S. aircraft carriers and other combatant ships out of the Persian Gulf and out of sight of land.
 - iii. Immediately withdraw all United States CIA agents, mercenaries, etc. from Iraq.
 - iv. Encourage, support and participate in but not manage, comprehensive and broadly-inclusive negotiations on all issues.

Draft

- v. Pay for an appropriate United Nations peace-keeping mission, with at least 50 percent of the mission to be from nations with large Muslim populations, to be installed in Iraq as soon as possible.
 - vi. Withdraw all United States Armed Forces and civilian military contractors personnel from Iraq, except U.S. Marines serving in the U. S. Embassy in Baghdad, and performing solely embassy security duties, and returning them to the United States as soon as possible and within a maximum four month period.
 - vii. Permanently close all U.S. military bases in Iraq.
 - viii. Release and compensate illegally detained Iraqi's.
 - ix. Insure that there is security in Iraq and that Iraqi's have sufficient food, water, shelter, health care, etc.
 - x. Return Iraq's sovereignty, economy, political processes, etc. to the Iraqi people.
 - xi. Insure that Iraqi oil and all profits from the sale of Iraqi oil belong to the Iraqi people and that there is fairness in the distribution of oil resources to the Iraqi people.
 - xii. Reorganize reconstruction activities so that Iraqis are in charge.
 - xiii. Not attempt to sell Iraqi oil assets or to sign contract during the United States occupation.
 - xiv. Provide for and participate in a process of international truth and reconciliation between the people of the United States and the people of Iraq.
40. The current situation provides an outstanding opportunity for a much more peaceful, stable and just Middle East and world.