

# International Scenario: Gulf War II (Iraq War- 2003-2011)

After the first Gulf War, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 687. This resolution stated that all Iraq's long-range missiles and nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons must be destroyed.

On September 11, 2001, the United States suffered multiple terror attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon outside Washington, D.C. Shortly after these attacks, President George W. Bush accused Iraq of developing weapons that violated UN Security Council Resolution 687, with the president insisting that UN weapons inspectors be allowed full access to Iraq. Through late 2002 and into 2003, Iraq reluctantly allowed weapons inspectors back in the country and seemed to be progressing, but President Bush was not satisfied.

## The Iraq War Starts

On March 20th, 2003, the Iraq War began when the United States led a coalition of about 40 countries into an invasion of Iraq. Most of the forces were U.S. and British. The invasion rapidly moved through Iraq until coalition forces controlled most large cities. On April 15th, 2003, the invasion was declared complete. Over the rest of 2003, the coalition forces began to hunt down and capture key figures from former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's government. This included the capture of Saddam Hussein in December 2003.



*The toppling of Saddam Hussein's statue in Baghdad in 2003, shortly after the invasion began.*

## The War Changes

There were small-scale attacks on the U.S.-led forces after the invasion. Over time, these attacks became constant and increasingly deadly. Through 2004, both U.S.-led forces and Iraqi civilians were being attacked. The first election of the Iraqi government under the new constitution took place in 2005. That year also saw the heaviest attacks on the coalition forces and civilians. The new Iraqi government also took office in 2006, and former President Saddam Hussein was executed for his crimes against Iraq in December.

In 2007 there was a massive increase in U.S. forces in Iraq, and the attacks on them decreased. This was also the year when the Iraqi government voted in favor of coalition forces leaving the nation. In 2008, Iraq could finally start defending itself as the new Iraqi army was formed, and its troops started basic training.

## Conclusion

Beginning in 2009, President Obama began to significantly reduce the number of troops in Iraq as the Iraqi armed forces started controlling the security of their own nation. Congress formally ended its authorization for the troops in November 2011, and the last combat troops left the next month. December 15, 2011, is the official end date of the war. However, the situation in Iraq is not completely stable, and the U.S. still has American troops stationed there.

Image Credit: "[The statue of Saddam Hussein topples in Baghdad's Firdos Square on April 9, 2003. Three years later, Iraqi forces increasingly are taking the lead in securing their country](#)" from the US Department of Defense" is under the public domain

Adapted from: <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/united-states-declares-end-to-iraq-war>