

Case Study#5 The War in Iraq

May 17, 2019

Due: Upload your answer file in the form of a simple Word document to Canvas by **Monday, May 20, 2019 by the end of the day** (just pick one group member to upload the file on behalf of the entire group).

Assignment: For this case study we ask you to combine your knowledge about the events leading up to the U.S. invasion of Iraq in March 2003 with what you learned about how elites shape, control and (sometimes) manipulate public opinion. The assignment will ask you specifically to focus on how hardliners in the Bush administration were able to shape the narrative (i.e. frame) the events surrounding the Invasion of Iraq in a way that kept public opinion favorable to military action.

To gain full credit your group needs to:

Read: Jon Western Chapter 6

Answer the following question to the best of your ability:

1. Outline Western's general theory of intervention and war in U.S. foreign policy. What does he seek to explain and how does he explain it?
2. Western suggests that the success of the "hardliner" coalition rested on their ability to control the "narrative" surrounding Iraq. What was this narrative and what did it suggest the U.S. ought to do?
3. Why was the Bush administration able to control the message about Iraq and its alleged links to the terrorist attacks of 9/11? What made that story so powerful? You should touch on the following points:
 - a. The role of information,
 - b. The make-up of the administration,
 - c. The form and content of the *pro-war* narrative,
 - d. The general social/political/cultural context in which these events took place.
4. Given what you know about the dynamics of public opinion formation and manipulation in U.S. foreign policy, are there parallels between the developments that led to the war in Iraq in 2003 and the road that led the U.S. to escalate the war in Vietnam in the 1960s? Explain your answer.
5. Upload your answer to the Canvas site under the assignment tab. An online submission option will be available. Only one of your group members needs to submit the form, but make sure that **all your names are listed at the top of the document!**
6. Get ready for our check-out session on Monday and make sure you come prepared to answer a brief quiz about the material and rate the performance of your group members.

Good luck!