The United States and Iraq since 1979
Hegemony, Oil and War
Steven Hurst

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Provides a comprehensive analysis of US-Iraqi relations from 1979

Description
This overview of the US-Iraqi relationship attempts to place the 2003 American invasion and subsequent occupation of Iraq into a wider historical context.

Using a modified version of World Systems Theory, the book places American policy toward Iraq at the centre of a number of dynamics, including America’s dominant role in managing the world capitalist system, the fundamental importance of Persian Gulf oil to that system, and long-term change in the American political system.

It argues that American policy towards Iraq since 1979 has been shaped above all by the importance of Persian Gulf oil to the world economy and the consequent need to restore America’s position as regional hegemon and guarantor of the global oil supply, which had been destabilized by the Iranian revolution.

It also emphasizes the role of American domestic politics and above all the ‘conservative ascendancy’ which brought George W. Bush to the presidency, as a critical factor in explaining the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Key Features
• Demonstrates that the second Iraq War is a result of a longer historical process and not just the product of 9/11 and the War on Terror
• Deepens understanding of the underlying factors of US policy towards the Persian Gulf, and its oil
• Uses World Systems Theory to analyse US foreign policy

The Author
Steven Hurst is a Senior Lecturer in Politics at Manchester Metropolitan University. He has written three previous books on American foreign policy including The Foreign Policy of the Bush Administration: In Search of a New World Order (1999) and Cold War US Foreign Policy: Key Perspectives (2005).

Readership
Upper level undergraduates, graduates and academics.

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Introduction
1. Towards a New Relationship, 1979-1984
2. From a Tilt to an Embrace, 1984-1989
5. A Second War for Hegemony, 2001-2003
6. Things Fall Apart, 2003-8
Conclusions: American Hegemony after the Iraq War

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Courses

American/ US Foreign Policy; US Foreign Policy towards the Persian Gulf and Middle East; International Oil Policy; International Relations; International/World Politics since 1945; Middle East Studies.

Examples of specific US Foreign Policy courses (all of which cover the wars in Iraq) include:

- Birkbeck, MSc module, American Foreign Policy, Professor Rob Singh, r.singh@bbk.ac.uk
- University of Birmingham, MPhil in United States Foreign Policy, module on US Foreign Policy in the Middle East, Professor Scott Lucas, w.s.lucas@bham.ac.uk
- University of East Anglia, School of American Studies, MA module, American Foreign Policy: Interventions, Richard Crockatt, rcrockatt@uea.ac.uk and Andy Patmore, a.patmore@uea.ac.uk
- University of Edinburgh, pg module, American Foreign Policy, Professor John Peterson, John.Peterson@ed.ac.uk
- University of Glasgow, ug module, United States Foreign Policy, Professor Brian Girvin, b.girvin@scosci.gla.ac.uk
- University of Kent, pg modules, American Foreign Policy: Ordering the International; and US Foreign Policy since 1945, Dr Doug Stokes, D.Stokes@kent.ac.uk
- Lancaster University, ug 3rd year module, United States Foreign Policy since 1945, Dr Mark Garnett, m.garnett@lancaster.ac.uk
- University of Leicester, MA/ Diploma in American Foreign Policy (Dept of Politics and IR)
- London Metropolitan University, American Foreign Policy, Andrew Moran, a.moran@londonmet.ac.uk
- University of Manchester, pg module, Contemporary US Foreign Policy, Peter Lawler, peter.lawler@manchester.ac.uk
- University of Nottingham, MA in American Foreign Policy, Dr David Milne, david.milne@nottingham.ac.uk
- School of Advanced Study, University of London, MSc in US Foreign Policy; MSc in US Politics and Contemporary History, modules on The Politics of US Foreign Policy and Post-Cold War US Foreign Policy
- University of Sussex, School of American Studies, ug level 3 module, United States Foreign Policy, Dr Jarod Roll, j.h.roll@sussex.ac.uk
- University of the West of England, IR ug level 2 module, The Birth of a Superpower: United States Foreign Policy from the Monroe Doctrine to the Bush Doctrine, Dr Effie Pedaliu, effie.pedaliu@uwe.ac.uk