THE IRAQ WAR:
THE FIRST FIVE YEARS IN PUBLICATIONS

Compiled for the Center for the Study of Global Change
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The Iraq War: The First Five Years in Publications

This bibliography is intended both, for print resources, as a record of what is available from the first five years of the Iraq War and, for electronic resources, as a starting point toward more documents. Citations were harvested from OCLC WorldCat and ProQuest Dissertations & Theses in the spring of 2008, five years after the beginning of the war. Web resources, policy papers, audio-visual materials, books, dissertations, and creative works are included. URLs were verified in the summer of 2008. It does not include individual articles in periodicals, but does include special issues devoted to the Iraq War and related topics. Government documents were included very selectively. Books and audio-visual material were included if they were held, according to WorldCat, by more than one library in more than one state or country, not including national depository libraries or the Library of Congress. Items not meeting that criteria were deemed to be too local in nature.

WorldCat can be seen as a fairly comprehensive database of available print material, as libraries collecting hard copies create catalog records and thousands of libraries contribute their records to WorldCat. WorldCat’s weak point is in electronic material but, by the sheer size of it, it is a good source for identifying electronic material. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses is a database of over 2 million Master’s theses and doctoral dissertations submitted to UMI Dissertation Publishing. Dissertations and theses are increasingly available electronically from the institution where they were produced. It is a weakness in this methodology that if a record for a resource has not been created (or if a dissertation or thesis has not been submitted to UMI), it will not be found in these databases, but they are so large to still be among the most reliable sources in tracking down print resources.

WorldCat’s weakness in electronic materials is important to keep in mind with the citations for policy papers and related documents produced by policy institutes (think tanks) and non-profit organizations. These are only the citations culled from WorldCat. Some are available in print only, some in both print and electronic formats, but they are primarily available in electronic formats. That said, it can be confidently assumed that there are many documents not listed in WorldCat that were not included in this bibliography. Most organizations’ documents are searchable through their websites. A comprehensive search for additional documents would probably retrieve enough items for a whole new bibliography.
Government documents have, of course, been produced by the thousands, far more than can be included here without at least doubling in length. A wealth of information can be found from the Congressional Research Service, the Army War College (especially Personal Experience Monographs), the Marine Corps' History Division, and the Combat Studies Institute, among other sources. Dissertations and theses produced at the military academies and the Naval Postgraduate School are included, as are books published by the Naval Academy Press. Newsletters published by deployed units are included and are a unique source of information about unit activities and individual soldiers in Iraq. Finally, bibliographies produced by military researchers and by librarians at military institutions are included.

When searching, the following Library of Congress Subject Headings will be useful:

Iraq--History--2003-
Iraq--Politics and government--2003-
Iraq--Relations--United States
Iraq War, 2003-
United States--Relations--Iraq

Most resources on the Iraq War fall within the following Library of Congress Classification range:

DS 79.76 – DS 79.769

Iraqi history in general falls within:

DS 70.82 – DS 79.9
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