

[How did the U.S. government lead its people to war?](#)

## Rhetoric and Spin

### Iraq, al-Qaeda and 9/11

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**M**arch 6, 2003 press conference by President Bush, two weeks before the war in Iraq started, where he invoked 9/11 and al-Qaeda at least a dozen times

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**BUSH:** [Hussein] provides funding and training and safe haven to **terrorists** -- **terrorists** who would willingly use weapons of mass destruction against America and other peace-loving countries...

The attacks of **September the 11th**, 2001 showed what the enemies of America did with four airplanes. We will not wait to see what **terrorists** or **terrorist states** could do with weapons of mass destruction...



The cause of peace will be advanced only when the **terrorists** lose a wealthy patron and protector, and when the **dictator** is fully and finally disarmed...

**Iraq** is a part of the **war on terror**. **Iraq** is a country that has got **terrorist** ties. It's a country with wealth. It's a country that trains **terrorists**, a country that could arm **terrorists**...

**September the 11th** should say to the American people that we're now a battlefield...

I believe **Saddam Hussein** is a threat to the American people... He has trained and financed **al-Qaeda**-type organizations before, **al-Qaeda** and other **terrorist** organizations...

...We live in a dangerous world... And I hope people remember the -- I know they remember the tragedy of **September the 11th**, but I hope they understand the lesson of **September the 11th**. The lesson is, is that we're vulnerable to attack, wherever it may occur, and we must take threats which gather overseas very seriously.

...It's hard to envision more **terror** on America than **September the 11th**, 2001. We did nothing to provoke that **terrorist** attack. It came upon us because there's an **enemy** which hates America. They hate what we stand for. We love freedom and we're not changing. And, therefore, so long as there's a **terrorist** network like **al-Qaeda**, and others willing to fund them, finance them, equip them -- we're at war.

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