

# LEADING TO WAR

SEE WHERE THE TRUTH LIES

a film and website that chronicle the path to war in Iraq

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*How did the U.S. government lead its people to war?*

## Rhetoric and Spin

### “Peace” and “Freedom”

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**W**hite House Press Conference on March 6, 2003, where President Bush uses the word “peace” 18 times. [\[link to source\]](#)

**BUSH:** . . . we have arrived at an important moment in confronting the threat posed to our nation and to **peace** by Saddam Hussein and his weapons of terror.

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Saddam Hussein has a long history of reckless aggression and terrible crimes. He possesses weapons of terror. He 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. Saddam Hussein and his weapons are a direct threat to this country, to our people, and to all free people.

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Across the world and in every part of America, people of goodwill are hoping and praying for **peace**. Our goal is **peace** -- for our nation, for our friends and allies, for the people of the Middle East. People of goodwill must also recognize that allowing a dangerous dictator to defy the world and harbor weapons of mass murder and terror is not **peace** at all; it is pretense. 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.

Tonight I thank the men and women of our armed services and their families. I know their deployment so far from home is causing hardship for many military families. Our nation is deeply grateful to all who serve in uniform. We appreciate your commitment, your idealism, and your sacrifice. We support you, and we know that if **peace** must be defended, you are ready.

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I'm hopeful that he does disarm. But, in the name of **peace** and the security of our people, if he won't do so voluntarily, we will disarm him. And other nations will join him -- join us in disarming him.

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I believe Saddam Hussein is a threat to the American people. I believe he's a threat to the neighborhood in which he lives. And I've got a good evidence to believe that. He has weapons of mass destruction, and he has used weapons of mass destruction, in his neighborhood and on his own people. He's invaded countries in his neighborhood. He tortures his own people. He's a murderer. He has trained and financed al Qaeda-type organizations before, al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations. I take the threat seriously, and I'll deal with the threat. I hope it can be done **peacefully**.

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So, in the name of security and **peace**, if we have to -- if we have to -- we'll disarm him.

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. . .we live in a dangerous world. We live in new circumstances in our country. 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. We don't have to deal with them all militarily. But we must deal with them. And in the case of Iraq, it is now time for him to disarm. For the sake of **peace**, if we have to use our troops, we will.

My faith sustains me because I pray daily. I pray for guidance and wisdom and strength. If we were to commit our troops -- if we were to commit our troops -- I would pray for their safety, and I would pray for the safety of innocent Iraqi lives, as well.

One thing that's really great about our country, April, is there are thousands of people who pray for me that I'll never see and be able to thank. But it's a humbling experience to think that people I will never have met have lifted me and my family up in prayer. And for that I'm grateful. That's -- it's been -- it's been a comforting feeling to know that is true. I pray for **peace**, April. I pray for **peace**.

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I think of the risks, calculated the cost of inaction versus the cost of action. And I'm firmly convinced, if we have to, we will act, in the name of **peace** and in the name of freedom.

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So more time, more inspectors, more process, in our judgment, is not going to affect the **peace** of the world. So whatever is resolved is going to have some finality to it, so that Saddam Hussein will take us seriously.

I want to remind you that it's his choice to make as to whether or not we go to war. It's Saddam's choice. He's the person that can make the choice of war and **peace**. Thus far, he's made the wrong choice. If we have to, for the sake of the security of the American people, for the sake of **peace** in the world, and for freedom to the Iraqi people, we will disarm Saddam Hussein. And by we, it's more than America. A lot of nations will join us.

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