

THE WAR in IRAQ: **SIDE-by-SIDE**

John Kerry

Consistent. Realistic. Serious.



October 11, 2002: Kerry votes to authorize the use of force in Iraq if necessary. It was not a vote on whether or not we should go to war.

October 9, 2002: "If we do wind up going to war with Iraq, it is imperative that we do so with others in the international community, unless there is a showing of a grave, imminent — and I emphasize 'imminent' — threat to this country..."

January 2003: "I believe Saddam Hussein is a threat... but I do not believe the threat is so imminent today that we have to rush to war."

March 2003: "All of us know that just days from now our country may be at war with Iraq. If war comes then we must and will unite behind the brave young Americans who are risking their lives. I firmly believe that Saddam Hussein is a brutal dictator who must be disarmed. But I also believe that a heavy-handed approach will leave us to carry the burden almost alone."

March 2003: "We could have moved from a position of strength, in my judgment, and I think it represents a failure of diplomacy of a massive order, and that is what war is: War is the failure of diplomacy."

August 2003: "I believed, as... many thoughtful people, that by voting the way we did, we were getting the United Nations and the inspections in place and we could — and the president made his word to us that they would build that coalition and do it properly. The president, in my judgment, broke his word to us and to the American people."

August 2004: "Yes, I would have voted for the authority [to go to war]. I believe it's the right authority for a president to have. But I would have used that authority as I have said throughout this campaign, effectively. I would have done this very differently from the way President Bush has. And my question to President Bush is, Why did he rush to war without a plan to win the peace? Why did he rush to war on faulty intelligence and not do the hard work necessary to give America the truth? Why did he mislead America about how he would go to war? Why has he not brought other countries to the table in order to support American troops in the way that we deserve and relieve a pressure from the American people?"

George W. Bush

Misleading. Confused. Dangerous.



September 13, 2001: "The most important thing is for us to find Osama bin Laden. It is our #1 priority and we will not rest until we find him."

September 13, 2002: "I don't know where bin Laden is. I have no idea and really don't care. It's not that important. It's not our priority."

October 7, 2002: "Satellite photographs reveal that Iraq is rebuilding facilities at [past nuclear] sites." **No evidence found.**

January 28, 2003: "Our intelligence officials estimate that Saddam Hussein had the materials to produce as much as 500 tons of sarin, mustard and VX nerve agent." **No chemical weapons found.**

"The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa." **Documents were not credible and later discovered to be forged.**

"Evidence from intelligence sources, secret communications and statements by people now in custody reveal that Saddam Hussein aids and protects terrorists, including members of Al Qaida." **To date, no connection between Hussein and Al Qaida has been found.**

February 6, 2003: "Senior members of Iraqi intelligence and Al Qaida have met at least eight times since the early 1990s...Iraq has also provided Al Qaida with chemical and biological weapons training." **All claims proved to be false.**

May 1, 2003: "Mission accomplished."

July 3, 2003: "There are some who feel like the conditions are such that they can attack us there. My answer is, bring 'em on."

August 27, 2004: "[We've made] miscalculations of what the conditions would be [in post-war Iraq.]" **About growing concerns over Iran and North Korea's nuclear programs:** "I don't think you give timelines to dictators. I'm confident that over time [the diplomatic approach] will work -- I certainly hope it does."

September 21, 2004: "[Iraq is] a country well on its way to being a beacon of freedom in the Middle East."