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What will happen to Regional Security if the US pulls out of Iraq early ?

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### Abstract

If the U.S pulls out of Iraq too early security in the Middle East region will be severely upset.

Many players in the region want the U.S. to leave. If we do it will cause many problems that will have far reaching effects.

What will happen to Regional Security if the US pulls out of Iraq early?

### Regional Players

U.S. withdrawal from Iraq prematurely would be detrimental to stability in the Middle East. Many countries are waiting on the sidelines to take over in our stead. The most threatening of all is Iran. Iran is already supplying a lot of technological advanced materials used to make Improvised explosion devices (IED's). They are adamantly denying any such action but it is a fact. They are supplying monies and weapons for the insurgents in the country along with technology like the Explosively Formed Penetrating (EFP) IED. Iran has also sent students to Karbala and Najaf; about one third of these students are suspected intelligence agents. Iran does not want a democracy in the Middle East. They are also supporting the war with money and weapons to keep the Government weak so that they do not have a U.S. backed Government in the region. U.S. officials have reportedly found new evidence, which includes serial numbers on mortars, rocket-propelled grenades, and EFPs that are traced back to Tehran. "There is a clear line of evidence that points out the Iranians want to punish the United States, hurt the United States in Iraq, tie down the United States in Iraq," said CIA Director Gen. Michael V. Hayden (Beehner, 2007, *Iran's Involvement in Iraq*). Some say Iran's strategy is focuses for the long term and for when the U.S. leaves Iraq. "The Iranians will always be there," say Salameh Nematt of *Al-Hayat* newspaper. "And they feel that, once the Americans leave, the Iraqi government is going to be more willing to cooperate on matters that serve Iran's regional policies and Iran's regional domination" (Beehner, 2007).

Syria is also a major nation state in the region and they are involved in the attempt to support Iraqi militants and insurgents. Nearly half of all insurgents detained since the end of major combat operations in Iraq have entered the country through Syria. With Israel help, we are able

to keep their involvement to a minimum. However, if we were to leave Iraq, Syria would be able to further exploit them in Iraq. A country that is thought to be friend with the U.S. is also a minor player in Iraq. Saudi Arabia has a stake in the outcome of the Iraq war and is influencing some things in the country. "Saudi Arabia has both the means and the religious responsibility to intervene [in Iraq]," wrote Nawaf Obaid, neoconservative ally and a former security advisor to the Saudi government, in a shockingly frank editorial for the Washington Post last November (Jamail, 2007, *The Royal Treatment: Saudi Involvement in Iraq Overlooked*). The Saudi government believes that it is their responsibility to stick up for Iraqi Sunni's. They will do this by either invading Iraq if we leave and that will bring about a civil war or they will send more extremists. According to official U.S. military figures reported in the *Los Angeles Times* on July 15, about 45% of all foreign militants targeting U.S. troops and Iraqi civilians and security forces are from Saudi Arabia (Jamail, 2007). Most of the insurgents that were killed in Mosul, Iraq chose to operate there because of the low Kurdish population were from Saudi Arabia.

### Civil War

The threat of Civil war in Iraq is very real. To this point, we have kept the level to a semi manageable level. This however, would change drastically if we were to pull out of Iraq before we are able to stand up a functioning Government, Army, and Police force. To date, the sectarian violence is atrocious. Only the surge of U.S. troops has managed to bring it down in recent months. The major faction that is responsible for the majority of the sectarian violence is the Islamic Army in Iraq and Ansar al-Sunna. Another group responsible for violence against the Sunni's is the Mahdi Army. They're death squads, mostly Shia, sometimes even the members of the security forces. They will kidnap people, torture, then execute them. In some cases, they will videotape the executions and broadcast the tapes for propaganda (Wikipidea, 2007). The bodies

are usually dumped on a roadside. There are also reports of massacres that involve many people. If we pull out of Iraq too soon, there won't be any way to stop such atrocities as the U.S. is doing now.

### Populace

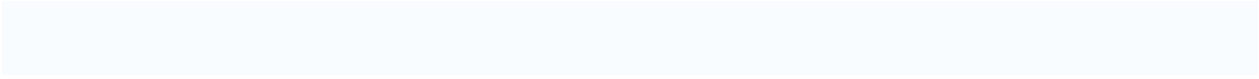
The people of Iraq deserve better than to have the U.S. abandon them in their time of need especially when central services in Iraq are in a state of serious neglect. The U.S. service members have been working hard at getting the infrastructure up and running. In Mosul, Iraq in 2005 and 2006, my Battalion was responsible for opening two police stations and an Iraqi Army compound. This battalion was also instrumental in training both the police force and Army in counter-insurgency procedures. If we are to pull out now, who would train the Soldiers and Policemen or support them when they are taking down an objective? The schools of Iraq have been neglected over the last 20 years and the U.S. has taken the responsibility to open schools there, validate the teachers and to get the kids educated so that they become viable members of society. If the U.S. pulls out, the schools will continue to be neglected and the kids will have no future. Basic services of the country have eroded to a point that a citizen is lucky to have two hours of electricity a day and most of that comes from a community purchased generator that each member of the village pays to keep it running. They are extra lucky to have running water as most citizens don't.

### Opposing Argument

The occurrence of PTSD is up at a record number, suicide for returning Soldiers is at its highest since 1981, and domestic violence for Veterans is astronomical. These are some great points to ponder while thinking about early withdrawal from an unstable location.

The hasty withdrawal of Soldiers from the country of Iraq would bring much

bloodshed and a power vacuum in the country and region. We must stay the course for the peoples of Iraq and the countries of the Middle East.



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