

Name:

Day One

Reasons for War

Part 1: Silent read

➔ Why did we start a war with Iraq, and why did it drag on for so long? Read silently.

Why did we go to war against Iraq in 2003? And why were U.S. troops in Iraq through 2011? Sometimes, winning is the easy part.

The U.S. gave two main reasons for going to war. Our leaders said Iraq was making weapons of mass destruction, or WMDs. The U.S. also said Iraq was hiding members of Al Qaeda. Al Qaeda planned the September 11 terrorist attacks. The U.S. had promised to punish Al Qaeda and anyone who helped them.

However, reports soon showed no WMDs. More reports failed to connect Iraq and Al Qaeda. Even so, many Americans still supported the Iraq War. After all, Iraq's leader, Saddam Hussein, openly hated America. He was also a brutal dictator who tortured and killed his own people.

The first weeks of the war looked easy. U.S. jets dropped thousands of bombs. More than 250,000 American soldiers invaded. With U.S. troops deep inside Iraq, Saddam went into hiding. Joyful Iraqis toppled a famous statue of Saddam. Pictures of the statue coming down were shown around the world. Soon, Saddam was arrested.

Saddam's rule was over. However, as General Colin Powell told *CNN* in 2008, "We failed to understand that the war was not over." Iraq was in ruins. Many people had no food or water. Many more had no electric power. Ethnic and religious groups began a bloody struggle. Who would take power? A scary possibility arose. Would the new Iraq be more dangerous than the old one?

Source: "Powell: Support for Obama doesn't mean Iraq War wrong," *CNN*, October 19, 2008.



Day One

// one minute

Reasons for War

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

Why did we go to war against Iraq in 2003? And why were U.S. troops in Iraq through 2011? Sometimes, winning is the easy part.

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Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

Why did the first weeks of the Iraq War look easy?

Why did many Americans support the Iraq War?

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Reasons for War

Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

Why did we go to war against Iraq in 2003? // And why were U.S. troops in Iraq through 2011? // Sometimes, / winning is the easy part. //

The U.S. gave two main reasons for going to war. // Our leaders said Iraq was making weapons of mass destruction, / or WMDs. // The U.S. also said Iraq was hiding members of Al Qaeda. // Al Qaeda planned the September 11 terrorist attacks. // The U.S. had promised to punish Al Qaeda / and anyone who helped them. //

However, / reports soon showed no WMDs. // More reports / failed to connect Iraq and Al Qaeda. // Even so, / many Americans still supported the Iraq War. // After all, / Iraq's leader, / Saddam Hussein, / openly hated America. // He was also a brutal dictator / who tortured and killed his own people. //

The first weeks of the war looked easy. // U.S. jets dropped thousands of bombs. // More than 250,000 American soldiers invaded. // With U.S. troops deep inside Iraq, / Saddam went into hiding. // Joyful Iraqis toppled a famous statue of Saddam. // Pictures of the statue coming down / were shown around the world. // Soon, / Saddam was arrested. //

Saddam's rule was over. // However, / as General Colin Powell told *CNN* / in 2008, / "We failed to understand / that the war was not over." // Iraq was in ruins. // Many people had no food or water. // Many more had no electric power. // Ethnic and religious groups began a bloody struggle. // Who would take power? // A scary possibility arose. // Would the new Iraq / be more dangerous than the old one? //

I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.