



BARACK OBAMA ON THE WAR ON IRAQ

BARACK OBAMA UNDERSTANDS THERE IS NO MILITARY SOLUTION TO IRAQ'S CIVIL WAR AND HAS A PLAN TO BRING THE WAR TO A RESPONSIBLE END.

Obama Opposed the War from the Beginning

Barack Obama opposed the war in Iraq before the American invasion. In October 2002, Obama said, "I don't oppose all wars. What I am opposed to is a rash war.... Even a successful war against Iraq will require a U.S. occupation of undetermined length, at undetermined cost, with undetermined consequences." Obama has a plan to bring the war to a responsible end.

Get Our Troops out of the Middle of Iraq's Civil War with Phased Redeployment

Obama has called for an immediate phased withdrawal of U.S. troops out of Iraq at the pace of one to two brigades a month, with the goal that all combat brigades be out by the end of next year. This responsible redeployment will be both substantial and will be planned by our military commanders. A residual U.S. presence may remain in Iraq or the region for force protection, training of Iraqi security forces, and counterterrorism operations.

A Mission that Can Succeed: Pressure the Iraqi Government to Reconcile

Removing our troops will finally apply real pressure on Iraq's leaders to end their civil war. Rather than simply replace the Maliki government, we should call a new United Nations-led constitutional convention that would include representatives from all levels of Iraqi society.

A Diplomatic Surge

We need presidential leadership to press for a regional compact that secures Iraq's borders, keeps neighbors from meddling, isolates Al Qaeda, and supports Iraq's unity. This means turning the page on the Bush-Cheney policy of not talking to Syria and Iran. Conventional Washington says presidents cannot do this, but not talking to our adversaries doesn't make us look tough—it makes us look arrogant.

Prevent the Worsening of Iraq's Humanitarian Crisis

President Bush likes to warn of the dire consequences of ending the war, but mass refugee movements and sectarian violence are already a reality in Iraq. Obama believes it's time to form an international working group on refugees and increase our refugee assistance to \$2 billion. Obama would reserve the right to intervene militarily with the international community to stop potential widespread genocide and, if necessary, would launch a U.N. commission to monitor and prosecute war criminals.



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