

US Never Ending Wars: 32 Years Ago, America's "First War" against Iraq

By [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#)

Global Research, March 15, 2023

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

*The War on Iraq was launched 20 years ago on **March 20, 2003**. (Baghdad time)*

*The US-NATO led invasion of Iraq started on **20 March 2003** on the pretext that Iraq possessed Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).*

The 1991 Gulf War on Iraq began on the 17th January 1991. That was 32 Years ago.

However, after the 28th February ceasefire was agreed and signed - following the Basra Road massacre of withdrawing soldiers and fleeing civilians on 26th/27th February -

The US 24th Mechanised Infantry Division slaughtered thousands on 2nd March 1991.

*Thirty-two years ago. The so-called "Gulf War" (**Iraq War I**) was launched against Iraq on January 17, 1991.*

Of relevance to the Ukraine Crisis, extensive crimes against humanity have been committed by the US and its NATO allies under the banner of "peace making operations".

*On January 16, 1991 **President George H. Walker Bush** announced the start of what was called "**Operation Desert Storm**", which was portrayed as "a peace-making operation" allegedly "to expel occupying Iraqi forces from Kuwait".*

Remember: [The 1991 Gulf War: The Massacre of Withdrawing Soldiers on "The Highway of Death"](#)

There for 60 miles every vehicle was strafed or bombed, every windshield is shattered, every tank is burned, every truck is riddled with shell fragments. No survivors are known or likely. The cabs of trucks were bombed so much that they were pushed into the ground, and it's impossible to see if they contain drivers or not. Windshields were melted away, and huge tanks were reduced to shrapnel.



Those extensive crimes against humanity were the beginning of a long and unending war against the people of Iraq.

Historians often refer to the **One hundred years war** between England and France which in fact lasted more than **One Hundred years.** (1337-1453).

They also refer to devastation and destruction underlying **The Thirty Years' War**

(1618-1648) which led to the Westphalia Peace Treaty in 1648.

The WAR AGAINST IRAQ IS ONGOING

The Thirty-two Years Wars against Iraq was launched on January 17, 1991. It was called "The Gulf War". It was heralded as a humanitarian intervention. A no fly zone was established. The Northern Republic of Kurdistan gained de facto "autonomy", it became a US sponsored proxy state.

It was the onslaught of what should be identified by historians as:

The 32 years criminal war of the US against the people of Iraq. (1991-)

Reviewing the history of US aggression against Iraq, we can distinguish three distinct stages:

Iraq War I (January 1991),

Iraq War II (March 2003),

Iraq War III (August 2014-), over several US presidencies, all of which are characterized by extensive crimes against humanity:

- Iraq War I: The Gulf War (January 1991 launched under **George H. W. Bush**), **invoking Iraq's military occupation of Kuwait;**
- Iraq War II: The War on Iraq (March 2003 under **President George W. Bush**), **invoking Saddam's "Weapons of Mass Destruction"**
- Iraq War III: The August 2014 War on the Islamic State (ISIS) under president Obama, consisting of **a massive carpet bombing endeavour which was casually described by the media as an anti-terrorist operation.**

These three so-called wars were part of a Thirty Year War which is still ongoing. It is a never-ending war.

The war on Afghanistan did not start in October 2001.

The US declared war on Afghanistan in 1979 under the label of the Soviet-Afghan War, which was sustained by US support to Al Qaeda's Mujahideen referred to by **President Ronald Reagan** as "Freedom Fighters".



President Reagan Meets leaders of Afghanistan's Mujahideen at the White House (1980s)

Let us be under no illusions: The US has supported Al Qaeda and its affiliated organizations for almost half a century [since the heyday of the Soviet Afghan war](#).

The US has been at war with Afghanistan for over forty years.

Reflecting on Joe Biden. Firm Supporter of Never Ending Wars

In 2003, Joe Biden as Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee firmly endorsed the Bush Administration's decision to invade Iraq in 2003 on the grounds that **Saddam Hussein** "had weapons of mass destruction".

"The American People were deceived into this war", said [Senator Dick Durbin](#). Do not let yourself be deceived again by Joe Biden.

UN Weapons Inspector [Scott Ritter in a July 2002 statement](#) said:

"Sen. Joe Biden is running a sham hearing. It is clear that Biden and most of the Congressional leadership have pre-ordained a conclusion that seeks to remove Saddam Hussein from power regardless of the facts, and are using these hearings to provide political cover for a massive military attack on Iraq. **These hearings have nothing to do with an objective search for the truth, but rather seek to line up like-minded witnesses who will buttress this pre-determined result.... This isn't American democracy in action, it's the failure of American democracy.**

Without Joe Biden's endorsement of the WMD narrative, would the Democrats have endorsed the invasion of Iraq?

See the video above.

Obama's "Operation Resolve" directed against ISIL-ISIS-Daesh (August 2014)

I should mention that during his tenure as Vice President, Joe Biden was firmly supportive of the **carpet bombing of Iraq ordered by President Obama starting in August 2014 under a "Fake" anti-terrorist operation against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL-ISIS-Daesh).**

On August 7, 2014: "President Obama authorises the first air strikes to protect US diplomats and aid Iraqi government forces".

What sheer nonsense. **Why is this anti-terrorist operation "Fake"? ISIL-ISIS-Daesh is an al Qaeda affiliate, a creation of US intelligence.**

The operation was directed against Iraqi and Syrian civilians. It resulted in extensive destruction of the civilian infrastructure of both countries. ISIS was the pretext which was heralded by the media.

And in September 2014, Obama announced the formation of "an anti-ISIS coalition" with the participation of NATO member states as well as US allies in Middle East (including Israel, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, etc).

The incursion of the Islamic State (IS) brigades from Syria into Iraq starting in June 2014 was part of a carefully planned military-intelligence operation supported covertly by the US, NATO and Israel.

The counter-terrorism mandate was a fiction.

The Islamic State was protected by the US and its allies. If they had wanted to eliminate the Islamic State brigades, they could have "carpet" bombed their convoys of Toyota pickup trucks when they crossed the desert from Syria into Iraq in June.



|

The Syro-Arabian Desert is open territory (see map below). With state of the art jet fighter aircraft (F15, F22 Raptor, CF-18) it would have been -from a military standpoint- a rapid and expedient surgical operation



The Obama administration's carpet bombing operation against Iraq and Syria entitled **Operation Resolve** was carried out over several years. In many regards, it is still ongoing.

America's Long War

During the period described by historians as **The Post War Era**" extending from 1945 to the present, the US has embarked upon **the ultimate war crime, a military adventure, "a long war", which threatens the future of humanity.**

The US and its allies have been involved in countless wars, military coups, "color

revolutions”, so-called “civil wars”, “anti-terrorist” operations, etc. Among the major operations are the Korean War (1950-53), The Indonesia Massacre of Communists (1963), The Vietnam War (1965- 1975), the ongoing wars on Afghanistan (1979-), Iraq (1991-), Syria (2011-), Libya (2011-), Yemen (2016-), numerous US sponsored military coups: Guatemala, The Congo, Egypt, Salvador, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile... The list is long.

The Pentagon’s global military design is one of world conquest. The military deployment of US-NATO forces is occurring in several regions of the world simultaneously, resulting in millions of civilian deaths and countless atrocities.

It’s an unending “highway of death”.

In May 2012, the Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Tribunal [passed a historic judgment against George W. Bush, Dick Cheney, Tony Blair, et al:](#)

After hours of deliberation, the tribunal, in the verdict that was read out by the president of the tribunal **Tan Sri Dato Lamin bin Haji Mohd Yunus Lamin**, found that the prosecution had established beyond a reasonable doubt that the accused persons, former President George Bush and his co-conspirators engaged in a web of instructions, memos, directives, legal advice and action that established a common plan and purpose, joint enterprise and/or conspiracy to commit the crimes of Torture and War Crimes, including and not limited to a common plan and purpose to commit the following crimes in relation to the “War on Terror” and the wars launched by the U.S. and others in Afghanistan and Iraq:

(a) Torture; (b) Creating, authorizing and implementing a regime of Cruel, Inhumane, and Degrading Treatment; (c) Violating Customary International Law; (d) Violating the Convention Against Torture 1984; (e) Violating the Geneva Convention III and IV 1949; (f) Violating the Common Article 3 of the Geneva Convention of 1949. (g) Violating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Charter.

The Tribunal finds that the prosecution has established beyond a reasonable doubt that the Accused persons are individually and jointly liable for all crimes committed in pursuit of their common plan and purpose under principles established by Article 6 of the Charter of the International Military Tribunal (the Nuremberg Charter), which states, inter alia, “Leaders, organizers, instigators and accomplices participating in the formulation or execution of a common plan or conspiracy to commit war crimes are responsible for all acts performed by any person in execution of such plan.”

Video: Michel Chossudovsky’s Presentation, Kuala Lumpur, March 2015

Starts at 8’30”

Michel Chossudovsky, January 17, 2021.

*From 2005 to 2016, under the helm of **Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad** former Prime Minister of Malaysia, I served as member of the Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Commission (KLWCC) which coordinated the prosecution and led the indictments against:*

Bush, Cheney, Blair et al (May 2012) (see report above)

Former Israeli army general Amos Yaron and the State of Israel (November 2013): crimes against humanity and genocide stemming from the massacre of Palestinians in Beirut's Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in 1982.

The original source of this article is Global Research
Copyright © [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#), Global Research, 2023

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#)

About the author:

Michel Chossudovsky is an award-winning author, Professor of Economics (emeritus) at the University of Ottawa, Founder and Director of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG), Montreal, Editor of Global Research. He has undertaken field research in Latin America, Asia, the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa and the Pacific and has written extensively on the economies of developing countries with a focus on poverty and social inequality. He has also undertaken research in Health Economics (UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), UNFPA, CIDA, WHO, Government of Venezuela, John Hopkins International Journal of Health Services (1979, 1983) He is the author of 13 books including *The Globalization of Poverty and The New World Order* (2003), *America's "War on Terrorism"* (2005), *The Globalization of War, America's Long War against Humanity* (2015). He is a contributor to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. His writings have been published in more than twenty languages. In 2014, he was awarded the Gold Medal for Merit of the Republic of Serbia for his writings on NATO's war of aggression against Yugoslavia. He can be reached at crgeditor@yahoo.com

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca