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Iraq War protests in Washington DC

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28 January, 2007

THE ARTICLE

Iraq War protests in Washington DC

Anti-war protestors came out en masse on Saturday all over the USA, protesting against the US government's policy in Iraq. Thousands of veterans and military families joined Hollywood celebrities and peace groups in making their opposition to America's presence in Iraq known to President George W. Bush. Tens of thousands rallied in front of the White House to pressure the government to vacate Iraq as soon as possible. Democrat John Conyers said the large nationwide turnout showed Americans want change: "It takes the...outrage of the American people to force Washington to do the right thing," he said. "We've got to hold more of these ... until our government gets the message. Out of Iraq immediately. This year. We've got to go." The protests may signal the beginning of the end of US troops being in Iraq.

Bush's approval ratings are rock bottom and most Americans disapprove of his plan to send another 21,500 troops to Iraq. However, the President is convinced his new strategy will end in victory and secure him with a legacy of being a peacemaker. He seems to be getting into ever-murkier depths politically. Over 3,000 American soldiers and tens of thousands of Iraqis have been killed since the 2003 invasion. Iraq War veteran Garrett Reppenhagen vented his anger at President Bush, saying: "When I served in the war, I thought I was serving honorably. Instead, I was sent to war for causes that have proved fraudulent." Perhaps the most notable opinion of the day was voiced by Hollywood actress Jane Fonda who said: "Silence is no longer an option. I'm so sad we have to do this - that we did not learn from the lessons of the Vietnam War."

WARM-UPS

1. IRAQ WAR: Talk to your partner(s) about the history of your feelings about the Iraq War. What did you think before and after the invasion? What do you think now? Change partners often to exchange each other histories.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

Anti-war / protestors / veterans / pressure / doing the right thing / US troops / approval ratings / rock bottom / legacies / invasions / silence / Vietnam War

Have a chat about the topics you liked. For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

3. PROTESTORS: With your partners, decide what each of these people might say if they gave a speech at an Anti-Iraq War rally.

- A Hollywood movie star
- The mother of a US soldier in Iraq
- A citizen of Baghdad
- A Vietnam War veteran
- A soldier in Iraq
- The Iranian president
- The French president
- Other _____

After you have finished, decide which of the speeches you most agree with.

4. QUICK DEBATE: Students A believe George W. Bush should withdraw US forces from Iraq immediately. Students B believe American troops should stay ten years if necessary. Debate this with your partners. Change partners often.

5. OPINIONS: In pairs / groups, discuss these opinions on the Anti-Iraq War protests. Change partners and opinion often.

- a) The protests prove most Americans want peace
- b) The protests are a wonderful example of freedom and liberty
- c) George W. Bush will never be persuaded by such protests
- d) The protests show how unpatriotic Americans are when troops are dying
- e) The protests are the beginning of the end of US involvement in Iraq
- f) The US will win the War on Terror, so the protests are futile

6. PROTEST: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "protest". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- a. Anti-war protestors came to an open-air mass on Saturday. T / F
- b. Hollywood movie stars were filming an anti-war film in Washington. T / F
- c. Tens of thousand of people rallied in front of the White House. T / F
- d. A US politician told crowds the US had to leave Iraq immediately. T / F
- e. President Bush's approval ratings have hit rock bottom. T / F
- f. Over 5,000 US troops have died in Iraq so far. T / F
- g. An Iraq War soldier said he was sent to war for fraudulent reasons. T / F
- h. Hollywood actress Jane Fonda said silence is the only option. T / F

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| a. en masse | leave |
| b. rallied | fury |
| c. vacate | significant |
| d. outrage | the lowest |
| e. signal | together |
| f. rock bottom | dirtier |
| g. murkier | dishonest |
| h. vented | demonstrated |
| i. fraudulent | poured out |
| j. notable | indicate |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| a. Anti-war protestors came | rallied in front of the White House |
| b. making their opposition to America's | that have proved fraudulent |
| c. Tens of thousands | turnout |
| d. the large nationwide | of being a peacemaker |
| e. The protests may signal the beginning | depths |
| f. Bush's approval | presence in Iraq known |
| g. secure him with a legacy | out en masse |
| h. murkier | longer an option |
| i. I was sent to war for causes | of the end |
| j. Silence is no | ratings are rock bottom |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Iraq War protests in Washington DC

Anti-war protestors came out _____ on Saturday all over the USA, protesting against the US government's policy in Iraq. Thousands of _____ and military families joined Hollywood celebrities and peace groups in making their _____ to America's presence in Iraq known to President George W. Bush. Tens of thousands _____ in front of the White House to pressure the government to vacate Iraq as soon as possible. Democrat John Conyers said the large nationwide _____ showed Americans want change: "It takes the..._____ of the American people to force Washington to do the right thing," he said. "We've got to _____ more of these ... until our government gets the message. Out of Iraq immediately. This year. We've got to go." The protests may _____ the beginning of the end of US troops being in Iraq.

Bush's approval _____ are rock bottom and most Americans disapprove of his plan to send another 21,500 troops to Iraq. However, the President is convinced his new strategy will end in victory and _____ him with a legacy of being a peacemaker. He seems to be getting into ever-murkier _____ politically. Over 3,000 American soldiers and tens of thousands of Iraqis have been killed since the 2003 _____. Iraq War veteran Garrett Reppenhagen _____ his anger at President Bush, saying: "When I served in the war, I thought I was serving honorably. Instead, I was sent to war for causes that have proved _____." Perhaps the most notable opinion of the day was _____ by Hollywood actress Jane Fonda who said: "Silence is no longer an _____. I'm so sad we have to do this -- that we did not learn from the lessons of the Vietnam War."

outrage
rallied
turnout
signal
en masse
opposition
hold
veterans

fraudulent
invasion
secure
vented
ratings
option
voiced
depths

LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Iraq War protests in Washington DC

Anti-war protestors came _____ Saturday all over the USA, protesting against the US government's policy in Iraq. Thousands of veterans and military families joined Hollywood celebrities and peace groups in making their opposition to America's _____ to President George W. Bush. Tens of thousands rallied in front of the White House to pressure the government to vacate Iraq as soon as possible. Democrat John Conyers said the large _____ showed Americans want change: "It takes the...outrage of the American people to force Washington to do the right thing," he said. "We've got to hold more of these ... until our government gets the message. Out of Iraq immediately. This year. We've got to go." The protests may signal _____ of US troops being in Iraq.

Bush's _____ and most Americans disapprove of his plan to send another 21,500 troops to Iraq. However, the President is convinced his new strategy will end in victory and _____ of being a peacemaker. He seems to be getting into _____ politically. Over 3,000 American soldiers and tens of thousands of Iraqis have been killed since the 2003 invasion. Iraq War veteran Garrett Reppenhagen vented his anger at President Bush, saying: "When I served in the war, I thought I was _____. Instead, I was sent to war for causes that have _____." Perhaps the most notable opinion of the day was voiced by Hollywood actress Jane Fonda who said: "Silence is no longer an option. I'm so sad we have to do this -- that we did not learn from the lessons of the Vietnam War."

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'anti' and 'war'.

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. STUDENT "IRAQ WAR" SURVEY: In pairs / groups, write down questions about the future of US involvement in Iraq.

- Ask other classmates your questions and note down their answers.
- Go back to your original partner / group and compare your findings.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

6. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------|
| • en masse | • rock |
| • celebrities | • legacy |
| • known | • depths |
| • turnout | • vented |
| • outrage | • notable |
| • signal | • lessons |

DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a. Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- b. Did anything in the article surprise you?
- c. Do you think the protests in America will change anything?
- d. Would you ever, or have you ever, protested against anything?
- e. Do you think the USA should leave Iraq immediately?
- f. How would you feel if you were sent to war for fraudulent reasons?
- g. Do you think the protests signal the beginning of the end for George W. Bush?
- h. Is it unpatriotic to demonstrate against a war your government is involved in?
- i. Do you think George W. Bush will win the War on Terror?
- j. What do you think will be Bush's legacy?

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a. Did you like reading this article?
- b. What do you think about what you read?
- c. How have your opinions about the Iraq War changed over the years?
- d. Is George W. Bush a peacemaker?
- e. Do you think the USA should stay in Iraq another ten years, if necessary?
- f. Why do so many Hollywood actors campaign against war?
- g. Do you think the USA and other countries ever learn lessons from their wars?
- h. Where do you think the USA will fight its next war?
- i. What would happen if the US left Iraq tomorrow?
- j. Did you like this discussion?

AFTER DISCUSSION: Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

- a. What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- b. Was there a question you didn't like?
- c. Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- d. What did you like talking about?
- e. Which was the most difficult question?

SPEAKING

ROLE PLAY:

A discussion about the Iraq War.

Team up with classmates who have been assigned the same role to develop your roles and discuss ideas and “strategies” before the role play begins. Introduce yourself to the other role players. Discuss your roles after the role play ends.

Role A – Baghdad citizen

You are fed up with airplanes bombing your city and suicide bombers creating terror and havoc. You want a normal life. The USA does not understand Iraqis or the Middle East. You prefer the stability of life under Saddam Hussein

- *Think of more reasons why the USA should leave immediately.*

Role B – Iraqi leader

You believe the future and safety of Iraq can only be won with the help of the US. The terrorists that are destroying Iraq must be beaten. The US has the best plan to rebuild Iraq and make it strong.

- *Think of more reasons why the USA should stay.*

Role C – Soldier’s mother / father

You are furious your country sent your son to war for fraudulent reasons. There were no weapons of mass destruction. You are furious your leaders lied to the world. You believe the invasion of Iraq means Al Qaeda now have a place to practice.

- *Think of more reasons why the US troops should all go home.*

Role D – US leader

You believe your plan to send 21,000 more troops to Iraq is a great strategy. You are sure you will win the War on Terror. You believe in ten years Al Qaeda will be finished and Iraqis will have a special holiday to celebrate America’s victories in Iraq.

- *Think of more reasons why the US should stay and fight in Iraq.*

LANGUAGE

CORRECT WORD: Choose the correct words from a–d below and write them in the article.

Iraq War protests in Washington DC

Anti-war protestors came out (1) ____ masse on Saturday all over the USA, protesting against the US government's policy in Iraq. Thousands of veterans and military families joined Hollywood celebrities and peace groups (2) ____ making their opposition to America's presence in Iraq (3) ____ to President George W. Bush. Tens of thousands rallied in front of the White House to pressure the government to vacate Iraq as soon as possible. Democrat John Conyers said the large nationwide (4) ____ showed Americans want change: "It takes the...outrage of the American people to force Washington to do the right thing," he said. "We've got to (5) ____ more of these ... until our government gets the message. Out of Iraq immediately. This year. We've got to go." The protests may (6) ____ the beginning of the end of US troops being in Iraq.

Bush's approval ratings are (7) ____ bottom and most Americans disapprove of his plan to send another 21,500 troops to Iraq. However, the President is convinced his new strategy will end in victory and secure him with a (8) ____ of being a peacemaker. He seems to be getting into (9) ____ murkier depths politically. Over 3,000 American soldiers and tens of thousands of Iraqis have been killed since the 2003 invasion. Iraq War veteran Garrett Reppenhagen (10) ____ his anger at President Bush, saying: "When I served in the war, I thought I was serving honorably. Instead, I was sent to war for causes that have proved fraudulent." Perhaps the most (11) ____ opinion of the day was voiced by Hollywood actress Jane Fonda who said: "Silence is no longer an (12) ____ . I'm so sad we have to do this -- that we did not learn from the lessons of the Vietnam War."

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) in | (b) en | (c) on | (d) an |
| 2. | (a) in | (b) on | (c) of | (d) at |
| 3. | (a) knower | (b) knowledge | (c) known | (d) knowing |
| 4. | (a) turnaround | (b) turnout | (c) turnoff | (d) turndown |
| 5. | (a) herald | (b) held | (c) holder | (d) hold |
| 6. | (a) significant | (b) signal | (c) signage | (d) signature |
| 7. | (a) rock | (b) stone | (c) diamond | (d) pebble |
| 8. | (a) litany | (b) lacy | (c) lunacy | (d) legacy |
| 9. | (a) never | (b) ever | (c) clever | (d) sever |
| 10. | (a) videoed | (b) vetoed | (c) vented | (d) vaulted |
| 11. | (a) notional | (b) notable | (c) memo | (d) notoriety |
| 12. | (a) opting | (b) optimism | (c) option | (d) opera |

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about the history of the Iraq War and how public opinion in America has changed. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. PROTEST: Make a plan of action to protest against one of the following: (a) US presence in Iraq, (b) the idea of US troops leaving Iraq soon. Decide what strategies you'll use (petitions, marches, boycotts, etc). Show your plan to your classmates in your next lesson. Ask each other questions about your plans.

4. LETTER: Write a letter from a Baghdad citizen to President George W. Bush. Tell him what it's like to live in Baghdad. Ask him three questions. Read your letter to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions. Which letter did you like best and why?

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

a. F b. F c. T d. T e. T f. F g. T h. T

SYNONYM MATCH:

a. en masse	together
b. rallied	demonstrated
c. vacate	leave
d. outrage	fury
e. signal	indicate
f. rock bottom	the lowest
g. murkier	dirtier
h. vented	poured out
i. fraudulent	dishonest
j. notable	significant

PHRASE MATCH:

a. Anti-war protestors came	out en masse
b. making their opposition to America's	presence in Iraq known
c. Tens of thousands	rallied in front of the White House
d. the large nationwide	turnout
e. The protests may signal the beginning	of the end
f. Bush's approval	ratings are rock bottom
g. secure him with a legacy	of being a peacemaker
h. murkier	depths
i. I was sent to war for causes	that have proved fraudulent
j. Silence is no	longer an option

GAP FILL:

Iraq War protests in Washington DC

Anti-war protestors came out **en masse** on Saturday all over the USA, protesting against the US government's policy in Iraq. Thousands of **veterans** and military families joined Hollywood celebrities and peace groups in making their **opposition** to America's presence in Iraq known to President George W. Bush. Tens of thousands **rallied** in front of the White House to pressure the government to vacate Iraq as soon as possible. Democrat John Conyers said the large nationwide **turnout** showed Americans want change: "It takes the...**outrage** of the American people to force Washington to do the right thing," he said. "We've got to **hold** more of these ... until our government gets the message. Out of Iraq immediately. This year. We've got to go." The protests may **signal** the beginning of the end of US troops being in Iraq.

Bush's approval **ratings** are rock bottom and most Americans disapprove of his plan to send another 21,500 troops to Iraq. However, the President is convinced his new strategy will end in victory and **secure** him with a legacy of being a peacemaker. He seems to be getting into ever-murkier **depths** politically. Over 3,000 American soldiers and tens of thousands of Iraqis have been killed since the 2003 **invasion**. Iraq War veteran Garrett Reppenhagen **vented** his anger at President Bush, saying: "When I served in the war, I thought I was serving honorably. Instead, I was sent to war for causes that have proved **fraudulent**." Perhaps the most notable opinion of the day was **voiced** by Hollywood actress Jane Fonda who said: "Silence is no longer an **option**. **I'm** so sad we have to do this -- that we did not learn from the lessons of the Vietnam War."

LANGUAGE WORK

1 - b 2 - a 3 - c 4 - b 5 - d 6 - b 7 - a 8 - d 9 - b 10 - c 11 - b 12 - c