

America's crude tactics for Iraq war

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Pre-reading | Key Vocabulary

Match the words with their opposites:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 1• increase | a• expensive |
| 2• export | b• quickly |
| 3• defend | c• safer |
| 4• cheap | d• reduce |
| 5• more dangerous | e• attack |
| 6• slowly | f• import |

2 Find the country

According to the text,

- 1• _____ has 11% of the world's oil reserves.
- 2• _____ is a country where the government kills its own people.
- 3• _____ is a small country with nuclear weapons.
- 4• _____ is the world's biggest economy.
- 5• _____ controls 25% of the world's oil.

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Larry Elliot

The American government says that a possible war with Iraq is not about oil. It is true that Iraq has 11% of the world's oil, but the USA says that an attack on Iraq is to make the world a safer place and not to provide more oil for thirsty car-drivers in the USA.

So, let's be clear. This. Is. Not. About. Oil. Do you understand? Of course you don't! Only a very simple person believes that the Americans would make so much noise about Iraq if the Iraqis did not have something the Americans wanted, in other words oil. There are a lot of other small countries - Zimbabwe, for example - where the governments quietly kill and torture their people. There are a lot of small countries which have nuclear weapons - North Korea, for example. But Iraq is the only small country which kills its own people, has

nuclear weapons and also has a lot of oil.

The USA is the world's biggest economy. It uses a lot more oil than it produces so it has to import oil from other countries. Now the world is using oil more quickly than it can find oil. Bush and his team know all this. They have worked for the oil industry, they been given money by the oil industry, and have listened carefully to what the oil industry wants. Bush now has three choices. First, he could listen to those oil companies who think they can find more oil in different parts of the world. This is why Bush has given permission for oil companies to look for oil in Alaska.

The second choice is for the US to take a bigger share of the world's oil. The Americans want to take control of Iraq's oilfields. If they win the war against Saddam Hussein, they will invite the big

oil companies to modernise Iraq's oil industry. This might be a good thing. Production might be more efficient and prices might be lower. This could be good for the world economy.

On the other hand, if the Americans occupy Iraq, this might cause problems all over the Middle East. It is possible that America could occupy Iraq and take control of 11% of the world's oil supplies and at the same time a new anti-American government in Saudi Arabia, for example, would control 25% of the world's oil.

The third choice for the US is to reduce the use of oil. Most governments, including the American government, understand that it is important to reduce greenhouse gases (those produced by burning oil). It would be very expensive to introduce a big change in energy policy and to reduce the amount of oil the world needs. But the oil problem will continue for a long time after the death of Saddam Hussein. healthier.

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3 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings with the endings:

According to the article:

- 1• The USA plans to attack Iraq ...
- 2• The USA needs more oil because ...
- 3• President Bush has given oil companies permission to look for oil in Alaska because ...
- 4• The modernisation of Iraq's oil industry might be a good thing because ...
- 5• The USA is not planning to attack Zimbabwe because ...
- 6• Saudi Arabia is an important country because ...
- 7• We must reduce greenhouse gases because ...
- 8• It will be difficult to reduce the amount of oil we use because ...

- a• ... production might be more efficient and prices might be lower.
- b• ... some oil companies believe there is more oil there.
- c• ... it controls 25% of the world's oil.
- d• ... because Iraq has a lot of oil.
- e• ... they are bad for the environment.
- f• ... it will be very expensive to introduce a big change in energy policy.
- g• ... Zimbabwe doesn't have any oil.
- h• ... it uses more oil than it produces.

4 Vocabulary

Fill the gaps using one of these words:

war efficient nuclear permission torture
share oilfield modernise reduce greenhouse gases

- 1• President Bush has given _____ for oil companies to look for oil in Alaska.
- 2• An _____ is a place where you can find a lot of oil.
- 3• If you improve something which is very old, you _____ it.
- 4• _____ are very bad for the environment.
- 5• Many people are against a _____ with Iraq.

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- 6• The US wants a bigger _____ of the world's oil.
- 7• Many governments kill and _____ their own people.
- 8• _____ weapons can kill millions of people.
- 9• The world has to _____ the amount of oil it uses.
- 10• If something is _____ it works very well.

5 Vocabulary: Word Building

Complete the table

VERB	NOUN
1• modernise	_____
2• reduce	_____
3• produce	_____
4• choose	_____
5• introduce	_____
6• invite	_____

6 Vocabulary: Word Game

Re-arrange these letters to spell words from the text:

- 1• ulraenc
- 2• myocone
- 3• sprnoieims
- 4• dtrpnoiuco
- 5• dtniuyrs
- 6• ssilepup

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Key

1 Key Vocabulary

1d; 2f; 3e; 4a; 5c; 6b

2 Find the Country

- 1 Iraq
- 2 Zimbabwe
- 3 North Korea
- 4 The USA
- 5 Saudi Arabia

3 Comprehension Check

1d; 2h; 3b; 4a; 5g; 6c; 7e; 8f

4 Vocabulary

- 1 permission
- 2 oilfield
- 3 modernize
- 4 greenhouse gases
- 5 war
- 6 share
- 7 torture
- 8 nuclear
- 9 reduce
- 10 efficient

5 Word Building

- 1 modernization
- 2 reduction
- 3 production
- 4 choice
- 5 introduction
- 6 invitation

6 Word Game

- 1 nuclear
- 2 economy
- 3 permission
- 4 production
- 5 industry
- 6 supplies