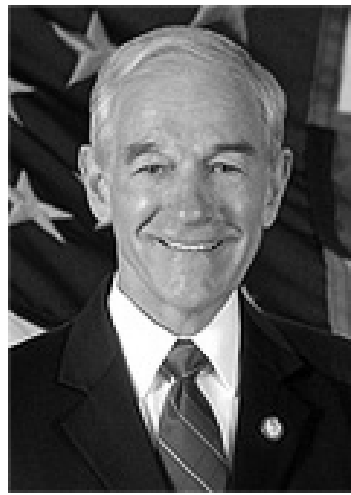


# Ron Paul On The Iraq War

## The War Is Unconstitutional



dated February 15, 2006.

Every American should be familiar with Ron Paul's insights into the Iraq war. This Republican Congressman from Texas--and also today a presidential candidate--voted against the bill (H J Res 114) of October 10, 2002, that gave the president the power to decide for or against waging war on Iraq. For much more on the fateful bill H J Res 114, see the 1st Edition of *The American Way*. Here is an excerpt from his speech dated October 8, 2002.

"... This resolution [H J Res 114] is not a declaration of war ... and that is an important point: this resolution transfers the Constitutionally-mandated Congressional authority to declare wars to the executive branch. This resolution tells the president that he alone

has the authority to determine when, where, why and how war will be declared. ... This is exactly what our Founding Fathers cautioned against when crafting our form of government: most had just left behind a monarchy where the power to declare war rested in one individual....

As James Madison wrote in 1798, "The Constitution supposes what the history of all governments demonstrates, that the executive is the branch of power most interested in war, and most prone to it. It has, accordingly, with studied care, vested the question of war in the legislature."

*This next excerpt is from Ron Paul's speech entitled "The End of Dollar Hegemony"*

## It Is About Protecting The Dollar By Force

deficits....

In November 2000 Saddam Hussien demanded euros for his oil. His arrogance was a threat to the dollar, his lack of any military might was never a threat. At the first cabinet meeting with the new Administration in 2001, as reported by Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, the major topic was how we would get rid of Saddam Hussein.

... The immediate reaction of the Administration after 9/11 revolved around how they could connect Saddam Hussein to the attacks, to justify an invasion and overthrow of this government.

Even with no evidence of any [Iraqi] connection to 9/11 ... support [for war] was generated by distortions....

There was no public talk of removing Saddam Hussein because of his attack on the integrity of the dollar as [the world] reserve currency by selling oil in euros. Many believe this was the real reason for our obsession with Iraq....

In 2001, Venezuela's Ambassador to Russia spoke of Venezuela switching to the euro for all their oil sales. Within a year, there was a coup attempt against Chavez, reportedly with assistance from our CIA....

[Now] there's this urgent call for sanctions and threats against Iran at the precise time Iran is [switching oil sales from dollars to euros].

... Using force to compel people to accept money [dollars] without real value can only work in the short run...." \*\*\*

## "Successful" Surge Is Latest Distortion

As the war supporters tell the story, the troop surge in Iraq has had extraordinary results. To hear the troops on the ground talk about what is real, the surge has devolved into a prolonged police action. While violence and American casualties in Iraq have decreased in certain areas, the troop surge is only partially responsible at best.

When the surge was announced in January 2007, US troop strength was around 130,000. By March it was 150,000, and the level of violence and American casualties had not declined. In fact, there was a notable spike in violence levels in February and March. Violence continued unabated through August, even while American troop levels rose to 160,000.

But there were two significant events that happened in August to alter the situation. The first was the Anbar Awakening strategy, which involves the U.S. paying former Sunni insurgents to keep the peace in areas like Anbar.

The second event was the unilateral truce called by Muqtada al-Sadr and his Mahdi Army, resulting in an immediate drop in violence in and around Baghdad. Statistics on the overall level of violence in Iraq show that the surge had no impact through August, but that there was an immediate and measurable drop in violence following Sadr's truce.

At the end of September, the administration abruptly stopped escalating troop levels at 168,000

and declared that any assessment of the surge had to begin in September. Administration officials had initially planned to increase troop levels to 172,000, but suddenly capped the surge and began the assessment when it became clear that September's casualty figures would be far lower than the figures for previous months.

It is clear the troop surge has not worked. The lower casualty and overall violence figures are the effects of Sadr's truce and of the policy of paying Sunni insurgents not to attack U.S. and Iraqi security forces, both of which preceded the surge.

The needless war in Iraq continues to drain American military capabilities and has reduced our military preparedness to the pitiful levels that existed at the end of the Clinton administration, that is, down to about 3% of GDP. Army Chief of Staff General George Casey has warned that "the current demand for our forces exceeds the sustainable supply" and that "the surge has sucked all the flexibility out of the system."

America needs no more of the current policies of endless war and permanent occupation of Iraq. America needs a sensible ending of the war in Iraq and needs to focus instead on defeating the terrorists worldwide. \*\*\*

## Iraq Is Not Central Front In War On Terror

Regardless of what Washington wants American to believe, the central front in the war on terror is not Iraq. America and the world face the greatest terrorist threat from the Islamic extremist enclaves dug in along the mountainous border regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan. If there is a central front in the war against the stateless, decentralized terrorist movement al-Qaeda, it is there and not Iraq where America has spent billions of dollars and lost thousands of lives.

The invasion and continuing occupation of Iraq has created a second terror front that serves as a training ground for terrorist recruits. It has diverted effort and resources away from capturing and killing the al-Qaeda leadership who are known to be hiding in Pakistan.

The Administration continues to send American men and women to Iraq not to combat terrorism but to control the Iraqi oil and prevent the dollar from being dropped as the world's primary currency. While this dangerous deception persists, al-Qaeda and their lackeys, the Taliban, have regrouped and re-strengthened in Western Pakistan. They now pose a serious threat to Afghanistan and the stability of the nuclear-armed government of Pakistan. For a complete background on the real motives for invading Iraq see the 1st edition of *The American Way* at Joe Arminio's website: [www.americanway08.org](http://www.americanway08.org).

Rather than actually fighting and defeating the real terrorist threat and restoring the U.S. economy, the neoconservatives, whose agenda is ascendant in Washington, prefer endless war and the permanent occupation of Iraq. \*\*\*

## Ron Paul Maryland Ticket

Vote February 12

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