

How to answer...

How Far Do You Agree

16
Marks +
4 SPaG

Question:

'The main reason for the 2003 invasion of Iraq was to remove Saddam Hussein from power.'

How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. (16 marks + 4 SPaG)

Answer:

One of the main reasons for the 2003 invasion of Iraq was indeed to remove Saddam Hussein from power. The US and its allies viewed Saddam as a brutal dictator responsible for human rights abuses, including the use of chemical weapons against his own people, such as during the Halabja massacre in 1988. His regime was also seen as a destabilizing force in the Middle East due to Iraq's previous invasions of Iran and Kuwait. Removing Saddam was framed as a way to liberate the Iraqi people from oppression and to establish a democratic government in Iraq, which the US believed could lead to greater stability in the region. Therefore, regime change was a central goal of the invasion.

However, another key reason for the invasion was the belief that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). In the lead-up to the war, US and British intelligence claimed that Saddam was actively developing chemical, biological, and potentially nuclear weapons, which posed a significant threat to global security. The fear was that these weapons could either be used by Saddam or passed on to terrorist groups like Al-Qaeda. Despite later discoveries that Iraq did not have active WMD programs at the time, this belief was a major justification for the invasion. The perceived threat of WMDs was a powerful motivator for military action.

Another important factor behind the invasion was the broader strategic interests of the United States in the Middle East, particularly related to oil and regional dominance. Iraq has vast oil reserves, and while the US denied that oil was a primary motivation, many critics argued that securing access to Iraq's oil and maintaining influence over a key part of the region's energy supply played a role in the decision to go to war. Additionally, following the 9/11 attacks in 2001, the US sought to reshape the Middle East and eliminate regimes it saw as hostile. Iraq was viewed as a key element in establishing US dominance and combating potential threats in the region.

In conclusion, while the removal of Saddam Hussein from power was a significant reason for the 2003 invasion of Iraq, it was not the sole cause. The belief that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction and the strategic interests of the US in the Middle East were equally important factors. The invasion was driven by a combination of security concerns, regional interests, and the desire for regime change.

Feedback:

This answer would get 16/16 marks because the pupil has explained the given point, and two counter points (WMDs and western interests) in depth using historical information, and directly linked to the question throughout. The pupil has also included a judgement at the end, explaining whether the point was the main reason and why.

