Invasion of Iraq

When the United States decided to go to war in Afghanistan to eliminate Al Qaeda it had the support of almost all the nations of the world, despite their differing ideologies. The war on terror basically involved the eradication of terrorism and radical ideology from the main source located in Afghanistan. Unfortunately, the United States opened up another front in Iraq which had no relevance whatsoever to the war on terror, since no actors from there were involved in the 9/11 attacks, nor was Iraqi territory being used for carrying out acts of terrorism anywhere else in the world. Saddam Hussein did not have any connection with Al Qaeda and in fact there was great animosity between the two.¹

Yes, Saddam Hussein had invaded Kuwait in 1990,² in defiance of international law, for which he was adequately punished. As a consequence of this misadventure and great folly of Saddam Hussein, the people of Iraq suffered untold hardship and misery because of the sanctions that were imposed on Iraq by the international community at the conclusion of the First Gulf War in 1991.³ However, Iraq did not possess any weapons of mass destruction (WMD), which was the ostensible reason forcefully propagated by the United States and the United Kingdom as the basis for going to war the second time—the “Second Gulf War,” code named “Operation Iraqi Freedom,” in March 2003.⁴

The absence of WMDs was verified by Mohamed ElBaradei,⁵ the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and Hans Blix, who headed the UN inspection team, prior to the U.S. invasion of Iraq in March 2003.⁶ After the invasion, Charles Duelfer, who had been appointed as head of the Iraq Survey Group by the U.S. government, also concluded that Iraq neither had WMDs nor had the wherewithal to produce them, as all its capabilities had been destroyed during the “Sanction Regime”⁷ which was in force from 1991 onward and was only lifted on May 22, 2003, after the invasion.
and occupation of Iraq. Charles Duelfer’s predecessor, David Kay, who had headed the Iraq survey group earlier, also held the same view. Therefore, possession of WMD by Iraq was a fabrication and obfuscation of the truth, and merely an excuse for the invasion.

All the nations of the world are well aware that the United Nations was specifically created after World War II to act as an international forum for the pacific settlement of disputes between nations and to foster better international relations among nations of the world. Accordingly all the nations pledged to adhere to the statutes of the United Nations Charter, which clearly laid down the purpose of the UN. According to Article 1 of the UN Charter, “the purpose of the organisation is to maintain international peace and security, and towards this end to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of peace and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustments or settlements of international disputes or situations which might lead to peace.” As per Article 2.3 of the UN Charter, “all members are required to settle their international disputes by peaceful means in a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered,” while Article 2.4 states, “All members shall refrain in their international relations from threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any manner inconsistent with the purpose of the United Nations.” Articles 2.5 and 2.7 also pertain to actions required to be taken by the United Nations with respect to international peace and security.

The invasion of Iraq was not sanctioned by the UN Security Council despite all the attempts by the United States and United Kingdom to portray that Iraq posed a most urgent and imminent threat to world peace and security, and that it had the capability to carry out a nuclear strike within 45 minutes. The then U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, made a definitive case for war against Iraq by displaying satellite pictures of alleged nuclear sites, and President Bush claimed that Iraq had imported aluminum tubes for uranium enrichment from Niger, clearly indicating its nuclear intentions, and that it had also developed unmanned aerial vehicles for delivery of the weapons of mass destruction.

The case for the invasion of Iraq was made on false intelligence, and had been fabricated to win the support of the world body; no nation was misled by these pretensions. The motives and the intentions of both the United States and the United Kingdom were seen