US Invasion of Iraq and After Effects.

What is the issue?

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- The present day Iraq largely bears the impact of US-led invasion of it in 2003.
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- The humanitarian catastrophe that Iraq is witnessing is a reminder to bring before law those responsible for this.
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What was the 2003 event?

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- The US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 marks an important turning point in Iraq's history.
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- The events brought an end to Ba'ath party's decades-long reign and Saddam Hussein's dictatorial administration.
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- US attacked Iraq citing mainly two reasons -
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1. Saddam administration possessed weapons of mass destruction
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2. the administration had ties with al-Qaeda
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What are the contentions?

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- **Support** - The U.S. did not have a UN mandate to use force against Iraq.

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- Repeated attempts by the George Bush administration to get Security Council approval failed.
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- But the U.S. went ahead with forming an international coalition that included the U.K.
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- **Claims** - The war notably had no legitimate basis and was founded on misleading intelligence information.
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- The reasons cited were not convincing and proved to be false.
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- Evidently, the occupying troops failed to find any weapon of mass destruction in Iraq.
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- Moreover, al-Qaeda in Iraq was actually founded after the US invasion.
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What impact has the war left?

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- Fifteen years on, Iraq is still fighting the horrible effects of the destructive war.
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- **People** - The war killed hundreds of thousands of Iraqis and displaced millions.
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- The U.S. first disbanded the Iraqi military, leaving tens of thousands of soldiers jobless overnight.
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- This posed a huge security threat.
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- **Power** - There was no coherent strategy to stabilise post-Saddam Iraq.
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- There were no plans to address the sectarian power struggle to fill the vacuum created.
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- Destroying the state apparatus led a multi-ethnic, multi-religious country of Iraq into utter chaos.
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- **Terrorism** - In this chaos, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi found the fertile ground to build his terrorist empire.
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- This, after his death, came under the leadership of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.
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- He transformed itself into the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, the IS of today.
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- In effect, the war got rid of a dictator, but left the country in a worse and much more dangerous situation.
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- Despite a functional government in Iraq, humanitarian and political tragedies are still unfolding.
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- Deepening sectarian and ethnic fault lines are evident.
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What does it call for?

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- Those responsible for the present chaos and disruption in Iraq have not been brought before the legal system.
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- No action has been taken even based on the U.K.’s Chilcot report, which took apart the arguments used to justify the war.
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- The present situations call for correcting the grave failure of the international system.
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Source: The Hindu

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