

The Regime Change Consensus

Why did the United States invade Iraq, setting off a chain of events that profoundly changed the Middle East and modern U.S. history. *The Regime Change Consensus* offers a compelling look at how the United States pivoted from a policy of containment to regime change in Iraq after September 11, 2001. Starting with the Persian Gulf War, the book traces how a coalition of political actors argued with increasing success that the totalitarian nature of Saddam Hussein's regime and the untrustworthy behavior of the international coalition behind sanctions meant that containment was a doomed policy. By the end of the 1990s, a consensus emerged that only regime change and democratization could fully address the Iraqi threat. Through careful examination, Joseph Stieb expands our understanding of the origins of the Iraq War while also explaining why so many politicians and policymakers rejected containment after 9/11 and embraced regime change.

Joseph Stieb is a post-doctoral researcher at the Ohio State University's Mershon Center for International Security Studies. His articles and essays can be found in *The International History Review*, *The Washington Post*, *War on the Rocks*, *Arc Digital*, and *The Raleigh News-Observer*.

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Iraq in American Politics, 1990–2003

Joseph Stieb
Ohio State University



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To my parents, Lisa and Jeff

Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	page viii
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xi
Introduction	1
1 A Hope, Not a Policy: Containment and Regime Change during the Gulf Crisis, 1990–1991	14
2 The Fallout from Victory: Containment and Its Critics, 1991–1992	54
3 The Long Watch: The High Years of Containment, 1993–1996	98
4 Saddam Must Go: Entrenching the Regime Change Consensus, 1997–2000	140
5 Not Whether, but How and When: The Iraq Debate from 9/11 to the Invasion	189
Conclusion: Containment, Liberalism, and the Regime	248
<i>Bibliography</i>	260
<i>Index</i>	265

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Abbreviations

AEI	American Enterprise Institute
BNL	Banca Nazionale del Lavoro
CCC	Commodity Credit Corporation
CENTCOM	United States Central Command
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
CPSG	Committee for Peace and Security in the Gulf
DIA	Defense Intelligence Agency
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ILA	Iraq Liberation Act
INA	Iraqi National Accord
INC	Iraqi National Congress
JCS	Joint Chiefs of Staff
KDP	Kurdish Democratic Party
KTO	Kuwaiti Theater of Operations
MEPP	Middle East Peace Process
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NEA	Near Eastern Affairs Office, State Department
NDZ	no-drive zone
NFZ	no-fly zone
NIC	National Intelligence Council
NIE	National Intelligence Estimate
NSA	National Security Agency
NSD	National Security Directive
OSP	Office of Special Plans
PCTEG	Policy Counter-Terrorism Evaluation Group
PNAC	Project for a New American Century
PUK	Patriotic Union of Kurdistan
R2P	Responsibility to Protect
SAM	Surface-to-Air Missiles
SCIRI	Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iran
UNMOVIC	United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission
UNSCOM	United Nations Special Commission
WMD	weapons of mass destruction