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ABSTRACT

Keywords: Media, Iraq, Invasion, 9/11, neoconservatives, Israel, Jews, media, ownership.

The U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003 became watershed in the history of global politics in general and West Asia in particular. It is widely known that US attacked Iraq ostensibly for its stockpile of the weapons of mass destruction (WMD), link with Al-Qaeda and allegations of developing nuclear weapons. But from the very onset there was serious question over its motivation for the war. Bush administration succeeded in selling the idea of invading Iraq not only as a legitimate and just cause but also a necessity to do so for the security of the America in particular and the world in general. Media played a very important role in this invasion given that media were one of the most important propaganda strategies of the Bush administration and its allies. US media created conducive atmosphere by portraying the U.S. impending war as a legitimate, legal and just war. Every leakage and misinformation was presented before the public without questioning its veracity, rational and motivation. Media continued to collaborate in the run-up to the war and in its aftermath. The outburst of media patriotism after the 9/11attacks reveals how fragile the barrier is between journalism and propaganda. Mainstream U.S. media presented 9/11 attack within the framework of culture, civilisations and Islam. Media portrayed the situation by adapting to Huntington's hypothesis of "Clash of Civilisations." Media aroused the threat for Western civilisation by "Other" culture.

Invasion of Iraq blatantly exposed the true face of the corporate controlled American media. The collaboration of US media with the government establishment was contrary to the accepted perception of American media as watchdog of democracy, sovereignty and freedom. One may ask the question why media behaved in such a fashion. Answer lies in the fact that who control mainstream media in America. And what is their interest and motivation to the issue of Iraq. A closer scrutiny of the media's ownership reveals an interesting fact that American Jews have overwhelming control over majority of the big media houses who have strong sympathy and emotional attachment with the state of Israel. They work closely with the Israel lobby and neoconservatives of America. Apart from other reasons Iraq was invaded to safeguard the interest of Israel in the West Asia. Zionist, neoconservatives and Israel played important role in the decision to invade Iraq.

Under this antecedent and keynote, the present study tries to examine and analyse the role of U.S. media and its ownership in the invasion of Iraq and the factors that played behind the curtain in shaping media discourse since 9/11 that subsequently led to the decision of regime change in Iraq. This study establishes the relationship between Iraq invasion, media ownership and Israel factor.