

**“I’m the commander— see, I don’t need to explain— I do not need to explain why I say things. That’s the interesting thing about being the president. Maybe somebody needs to explain to me why they say something, but I don’t feel like owe anybody an explanation.”**

— GEORGE W, AUGUST 2002



## The war president

Number of Americans killed in Bush's Iraq war as of August 2006: **2577**

What Bush press flack Tony Snow said the day the total number of American dead reached 2,500: **"It's a number"**

Number of Americans killed since Bush declared "Mission Accomplished" on May 1, 2003: **2,438**

Number of Americans wounded (a vague term that includes such horrors as brain damage, limbs blasted off, eyes blown out, psyche shattered, etc.) in Bush's war: **Official count - 18,777**  
**Independent count - up to 48,000**

Estimated number of Iraqi civilians (men, women, and children) killed in Bush's war since Saddam Hussein was ousted: **38,960**

For Iraqis, the bloodiest month of the war so far: **June 2006**  
*more than 100 civilians killed per day*

Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmit's advice to Iraqis who see TV reports of innocent civilians being killed by occupying troops: **"Change the channel."**

Percent of Iraqis who want American troops to leave: **82**

Stockpiles of Weapons of Mass Destruction found in Iraq since Bush committed Americans to war in 2003 on the basis that Saddam had and was about to use WMDs: **0**

Number of nations in the world: **192**

Number that joined Bush's "Coalition of the Willing" (COW) to invade Iraq: **48**  
*(The list includes such military powers as Angola, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Latvia, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, Romania, Solomon Islands, and Uganda.)*

Number of COW nations that actually sent any troops to Iraq: **39**  
*(Of these, 32 sent fewer than 1,000 troops. Many sent no fighting units, deploying only engineers, trainers, humanitarian units, and other noncombat personnel.)*

Number of the 39 COW nations contributing troops that have since withdrawn them: **17**  
*(An additional 7 have announced plans to withdraw all or part of their contingents this year.)*

Number of COW troops in Iraq: **150,000**

Number of these that are U.S. troops: **139,000**

Number of White House officials and cabinet members who have any of their immediate family in Bush's war: **0**

**“We’re dealing with a country that can really finance its own reconstruction, and relatively soon.”** — **“HOWLING PAUL” WOLFOWITZ**, deputy defense secretary, testimony to Congress

MARCH 2003

## Bonus stat!

Annual salary of Stuart Baker, hired by the Bushites to be the White House "Director for Lessons Learned": **\$106,641**

Number of lessons that Bush appears to have learned: **0**

## Halliburton

**“Halliburton is a unique kind of company.”**

— **DICK CHENEY**, SEPTEMBER 2003

Total value of contracts given to Halliburton for work in the Bush-Cheney "War on Terror" since 2001: **More than \$15 billion**

Amount that Halliburton pays to the Third World laborers it imports into Iraq to do the work in its dining facilities, laundries, etc.: **\$6 per 12-hour day**  
*(50 cents an hour)*

Amount that Halliburton bills us taxpayers for each of these workers: **\$50 a day**

Amount that Halliburton bills U.S. taxpayers for:

- A case of sodas: **\$45**
- Washing a bag of laundry: **\$100**

Halliburton's campaign contributions in Bush-Cheney election years:

- In 2000: **\$285,252** (96% to Republicans)
- In 2004: **\$145,500** (89% to Republicans)

Plus \$365,065 from members of its board of directors (99% to Republicans)

Increase in Halliburton's profits since Bush-Cheney took office in 2000: **379%**

Halliburton's 2005 profit: **\$1.1 billion**  
*(highest in the corporation's 86-year history)*

**“Since I left Halliburton to become George Bush's vice-president, I've severed all of my ties with the company, gotten rid of all my financial interest. I have no financial interest in Halliburton of any kind.”**

— **FORMER CEO DICK CHENEY**, *Meet the Press*, SEPTEMBER 2003

Annual payments that Cheney has received from Halliburton since he's been vice-president:

- 2001: **\$205,298**
- 2002: **\$162,392**
- 2003: **\$178,437**
- 2004: **\$194,852**
- 2005: **\$211,465**

### Follow the money:

- The official White House claim before the invasion of what the war and occupation would cost U.S. taxpayers: **\$50 billion**
- As of July 2006, the total amount appropriated by Congress for Bush's ongoing war and occupation: **\$295,634,921,248**
- Current Pentagon spending per month in Iraq: **\$8 billion**  
*(or \$185,185.19 per minute)*
- Assuming all troops return home by 2010, the projected "real costs" for the war: **More than \$1 trillion**  
*(includes veterans pay and medical costs, interest on the billions Bush has borrowed to pay for his war, etc.)*

## The imperial presidency

**“Our enemies are innovative and resourceful, and so are we. They never stop thinking about new ways to harm our country and our people, and neither do we.”**

— **GEORGE W**, AUGUST 2004

### Signing statements:

When signing a particular congressional act into law, a few presidents have occasionally issued a "signing statement" to clarify their understanding of what Congress intended. These have not had the force of law and have been used discreetly in the past.

Very quietly, however, Bush has radically increased both the number and reach of these statements, essentially asserting that the president can arbitrarily decide which laws he will obey.

Number of signing statements issued by Bush as of July 2006: **more than 800** (This is more than the combined total of all 42 previous presidents.)

A few examples of congressionally passed laws he has effectively annulled through these extralegal signing statements:

- a ban against torture of prisoners by the U.S. military
- a requirement that the FBI periodically report to Congress on how it is using the Patriot Act to search our homes and secretly seize people's private papers
- a ban against storage in military databases of intelligence about Americans that was obtained illegally
- a directive for the executive branch to transmit scientific information to Congress "uncensored and without delay" when requested

Provision of the Constitution clearly stating that Congress alone has the power "to make all laws": **Article 1, Section 8**

Provision of the Constitution clearly stating that the president "shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed": **Article 2, Section 3**

Name of the young lawyer in the Reagan administration who wrote a 1986 strategy memo on how to pervert the use of signing statements in order to concentrate more power in the executive branch, as Bush is now doing: **Samuel Alito, named to the U.S. Supreme Court by Bush this year**

### National security letters:

These are secret executive writs that the infamous 2001 Patriot Act authorizes the FBI to issue to public libraries, internet firms, banks, and others. Upon receiving an NSL, the institution or firm is required to turn over any private records it holds on you, me, or whomever the agents have chosen to search.

Who authorizes the FBI to issue these secret writs? The FBI itself.

- Surely the agents have to get a search warrant, a grand jury subpoena, or a court's approval? **No**
- But to issue an NSL, an agent must show probable cause that the person being searched has committed some crime, right? **No**
- Well, don't officials have to inform citizens that their records are being seized so they can defend themselves or protest? **No**
- Number of NSLs issued by various FBI offices last year alone: **9,254**

## Interesting fact:

The *New York Times* reported this June that Bush was running another spy program. This one was snooping through international banking records, including millions of bank transactions done by innocent Americans. George reacted angrily to the exposure, branding the *Times* report "disgraceful" and declaring that revelation of his spy program "does great harm to the

