

# US Empire's Passion for Iraqi Democracy Magically Disappears

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[Source](#)



Following a [vote by the Iraqi parliament](#) to remove foreign troops from the nation, the US president threatened to destroy Iraq's economy in retaliation and to refuse to leave unless an expensive military base worth billions of dollars was paid for.

"If they do ask us to leave, if we don't do it in a very friendly basis," Trump [told the press](#) on Sunday. "We will

charge them sanctions like they've never seen before ever. It'll make Iranian sanctions look somewhat tame. If there's any hostility, that they do anything we think is inappropriate, we are going to put sanctions on Iraq, very big sanctions on Iraq."

"We have a very extraordinarily expensive air base that's there. It cost billions of dollars to build. Long before my time," Trump also said. "We're not leaving unless they pay us back for it."

*[#BREAKING](#): Trump says he'll sanction Iraq if US troops forced to leave <https://t.co/m4nemzUh6W> [pic.twitter.com/WueHTvkqrE](https://pic.twitter.com/WueHTvkqrE)*

*– The Hill (@thehill) [January 6, 2020](#)*

This would be the same President Trump whose starvation sanctions are already known to have [killed tens of thousands](#) of people in Venezuela, and probably much more by now. The same President Trump who campaigned in 2016 on bringing the troops home from nations like Iraq.

And this would be the same US empire that used the narrative of bringing democracy to Iraq in order to help manufacture public support for "Operation Iraqi Freedom" (which Bush's Press Secretary Ari Fleischer [kept hilariously calling](#) "Operation Iraqi Liberation" [OIL] by mistake). The same US empire that has used the "liberation" of Iraq from the tyranny of Saddam Hussein and the institution of democracy in the Middle East to justify its evil and unforgivable invasion ever since.

Yet the instant Iraqi democratic institutions become even slightly inconvenient for the US empire, Iraqi democracy gets flushed down the toilet. Iraq's elected parliament voted very clearly for the removal of America's military presence in the interests of its own sovereignty, and Trump has stated, in his [typical accidentally-honest way](#), that America will not

honor that vote. The US is allowing Iraq the same kind of democracy that Americans have: democracy so long as it doesn't inconvenience the powerful.

This is, of course, because the invasion of Iraq had nothing whatsoever to do with democracy. The invasion of Iraq was about controlling a crucial geostrategic region which refused to bow to the dictates of the US-centralized empire. This is important to remember, because that is also exactly what the regime change agendas against Iran and Syria are about.

It is not a mysterious coincidence that all these horrible dictatorships that urgently need a forceful injection of freedom and democracy just so happen to reside right next to each other. The fight for control over the Middle East has always been about controlling important fossil fuel resources and trade routes, and thereby controlling the world. If the empire can't gain control of the nations in the region via absorption into the imperial blob (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Turkey, etc) or just constructing a satellite from scratch on top of a previously existing nation (Israel), then the empire will work to gain control by attempting to replace any noncompliant governments with compliant ones (Iraq, Syria, Iran).

And, as we now know, the second a compliant government begins to act noncompliant, it will immediately begin receiving the same treatment that noncompliant governments receive.

As things heat up with Iran you will begin hearing more and more babbling gibberish about the poor, poor Iranians and how unfortunate they are to live in a nation where the women can't feel their hair in the wind and LGBT people need to hide who they are. But as a [leaked State Department memo](#) revealed in 2017, the empire is never actually concerned with human rights, and it is never actually concerned with democracy. The sole concern of the empire is power, and the growth of that

power. That's all this has ever been about.

Iraq seems to be destined to be the nation that keeps teaching us important lessons, so the very least we can do in response is make sure that we learn those lessons, and remember them.