

Poll demonstrates record disapproval of the war in Iraq

by *Bend_Weekly_News_Sources*

WASHINGTON - A new ABC News/Washington Post poll indicates that a record number of Americans now disapprove of the war in Iraq. Sixty four percent of respondents say the war in Iraq "was not worth fighting," and 56 percent say U.S. forces should be withdrawn at some point even if civil order has not been restored in Iraq. Fifty three percent favor setting a timeline for withdrawal, with 85 percent of those advocating a withdrawal within the next year.

Christopher Preble, the Cato Institute's director of foreign policy studies and editor of the book "Exiting Iraq: Why the U.S. Must End the Military Occupation and Renew the War against Al Qaeda," comments:

"An expeditious withdrawal would allow the United States to begin to rebuild its tattered image abroad. It would also free up political, diplomatic and military resources for use against al-Qaeda and other like-minded anti-American terrorist groups. Withdrawal carries risks, including the danger that the civil war in Iraq could grow more violent, or even spread beyond the country's borders, but the alternative -- an indefinite commitment that saps American strength and undermines American security -- is worse."

Ted Galen Carpenter, the Cato Institute's vice president for foreign policy and defense studies and author of the policy analysis "Escaping the Trap: Why the United States Must Leave Iraq," comments: "Staying in Iraq is a fatally flawed policy that has already cost more than 3,000 American lives and consumed more than \$350 billion. The security situation in that country grows increasingly chaotic and bloody as evidence mounts that Iraq has descended into a sectarian civil war between Sunnis and Shiites. Approximately 120 Iraqis per day are perishing in political violence. That bloodshed is occurring in a country of barely 26 million people. A comparable rate of carnage in the United States would produce more than 1,400 fatalities per day." He concludes: "We need an exit strategy that is measured in months, not years."

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