

★ **MEETING FACE TO FACE** ★
THE IRAQ-US LABOR SOLIDARITY TOUR

TEACHER'S GUIDE

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Meeting Face to Face
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Description of the Program

MEETING FACE TO FACE: THE IRAQ-US LABOR SOLIDARITY TOUR chronicles the June 2005 Iraq-U.S. Labor Solidarity Tour sponsored by U.S. Labor Against the War. The tour follows six senior Iraqi labor leaders as they meet with labor leaders and other Americans in twenty-five cities throughout the United States. Iraqis explain why they believe that the primary condition for a peaceful resolution in Iraq is ending the U.S. occupation, and why an independent labor movement is crucial in creating a democratic society.

In this documentary we also see American working people bringing new energy and commitment to the movement for peace, social justice, and a humane foreign policy. A goal of this documentary is to provoke discussion by students and teachers about the war in Iraq, raising questions as to what our country is doing there and what the next step should be: Immediate withdrawal? Maintaining a military presence in order to avert civil war? MEETING FACE TO FACE provides students with the opportunity to hear from Iraqi labor leaders first hand without the filter of the mass media or the government.

This program provides a primary source for students to analyze and discuss the war in Iraq, U.S. foreign policy, and the impact of the war on the people of Iraq.

Connections to the National Council for the Social Studies Standards

1. **Culture (I)** – Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of culture and cultural diversity. Human cultures exhibit both similarities and differences. We all, for example, have systems of beliefs, knowledge, values, and traditions. This understanding will allow students to relate to people in our nation and throughout the world.
2. **Power, Authority, and Governance (VI)** – social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of how people create and change structures of power, authority, and governance. In exploring this theme, students confront questions such as: What is power? What forms does it take? Who holds it? How is it gained, used, and justified? What is legitimate authority? How are governments created, structured, maintained, and changed? How can we keep government responsive to its citizens' needs and interests?
3. **Global Connections (IX)** – Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of global connections and interdependence.
4. **Civic Ideals and Practices (X)** – Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of ideals, principles, and practices of citizenship in a democratic republic.

Connections to the National Standards for Civics and Government

1. What are Civic Life, Politics, and Government?
 - a. What are the essential characteristics of limited and unlimited government?
2. How Does the Government Established by the Constitution Embody the Purposes, Values, and Principles of American Democracy?
 - a. How does the American political system provide for choice and opportunities for participation?
3. What is the Relationship of the United States to Other Nations and to World Affairs?
 - a. How do the domestic politics and constitutional principles of the United States affect its relations with the world?
 - b. How has the United States influenced other nations, and how have other nations influenced American politics and society?
4. What are the Roles of the Citizen in American Democracy?
 - a. What is citizenship?
 - b. What are the rights of citizens?
 - c. What are the responsibilities of citizens?
 - d. How can citizens take part in civic life?

Essential Questions

1. Evaluate the effects of the U.S. war in Iraq on the Iraqi people.
2. Analyze why there is disagreement about U.S. policy in Iraq.
3. Synthesize the attitudes of Iraqi and U.S. labor leaders on the war in Iraq.

Suggestions for Lessons Based on MEETING FACE TO FACE

1. **Aim: To understand how the war has affected the daily life of the Iraqi people.**

Objective 1 - Describe the day to day life of the Iraqis after the war began and as it continues today.

Objective 2 – Analyze the similarities and differences between the media images of the war in Iraq and the reality of the war for the Iraqi people.

Objective 3 – Understand why many Iraqis want a democratic society not under American control.

Activities

- A) As students view MEETING FACE TO FACE, have them take notes describing of what daily life was like for Iraqis before the war began and compare it to the daily lives of Iraqis today. Discuss how and why life has changed so much as a result of the war.
- B) Assign students to bring in articles from newspapers and periodicals (Time, Newsweek, etc.). After viewing MEETING FACE TO FACE, have the students compare the depiction of the impact of the war in the mass media to the depiction in MEETING FACE TO FACE. Examine the differences and discuss why they exist. Ask the students why the mass media or our government might present a view of the war that differs from the view presented in MEETING FACE TO FACE. As an assessment, you can ask students to research how other wars in American history were covered by the mass media and to what extent the coverage was truthful or distorted. Their answer could be in essay form.
- C) After viewing MEETING FACE TO FACE, have students discuss why Iraqis would want a democratic society without a U.S. presence in their country, free from American control.

Assessment

- A) Students could be given a variety of excerpts from documents from the MEETING FACE TO FACE web site, mass media publications, and U.S. government documents and asked to write a document-based essay on the impact of the war on the daily life of Iraqis.
- B) Students could write a fictional letter from one Iraqi to a relative in the United States describing their lives before the war and today. They can role play an individual such as a school child, a worker, a shop owner, a policeman, a teacher, etc.

The lesson suggestions below can be expanded following the example above.

2. Aim: To analyze the role played by organized labor in Iraq before the current war and today.

Objective 1 – Understand the role of organized labor in Iraqi history.

Objective 2 – Determine why labor unions were illegal under Saddam and why most are still illegal under the U.S. occupation.

Objective 3 – Evaluate the role that organized labor would like to have in contemporary Iraq and in the future of Iraq.

3. Aim: Analyze the purpose of the tour Iraqi labor leaders took through the United States in June 2005.

Objective 1 – Describe the tour purpose and itinerary.

Objective 2 – Identify which Iraqi labor unions were represented on the tour.

Objective 3 – Discuss the common bonds between Iraqi and U.S. labor organizations.

Objective 4 – Understand what the tour accomplished.

4. Aim: Evaluate the policy suggestions of the Iraqi and U.S. labor leaders and compare them to current U.S. government policy in Iraq.

Objective 1 – Identify the goals of Iraqi and U.S. labor leaders with respect to U.S. government policy in Iraq.

Objective 2 – Explain the differences between U.S. government policy and the position taken by the Iraqi and U.S. labor leaders.

Objective 3 – Evaluate the positive and negative aspects of each policy position.

5. Aim: Analyze the Joint Statement of Iraqi Labor Movement and U.S. Labor Against the War.

Objective 1 – Identify the major goals contained in the Joint Statement.

Objective 2 – Describe the methods that the statement suggests to help achieve these goals.

Objective 3 – Evaluate whether this position reflects a majority or minority position within the U. S. labor movement.

For Further Study Internet Sources

www.MeetingFacetoFace.org

<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~govdocs/iraq.htm>

<http://www.pitt.edu/~ttwiss/irtf/Alternative.html>

<http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/iraqwar.html>

<http://govinfo.ucsd.edu/iraq/>

For Further Study Print Resources

This list will get you started with issues and viewpoints about Iraq. Be aware that some of these books are topical, and that they do not necessarily provide a balanced or "in-depth" view of Iraq or the Iraq crisis.

Arnove, Anthony. *Iraq: The Logic of Withdrawal.* New York: The New Press. 2006.

Braude, Joseph. *The New Iraq: Rebuilding the Country for Its People, the Middle East and the World.* New York, Basic Books, 2003.

Butler, Richard and James C. Roy. *The Greatest Threat: Iraq, Weapons of Mass Destruction, and the Crisis of Global Security.* New York, Public Affairs, 2001.

Chandrasekaran, Rajiv. *Imperial Life in the Emerald City: Inside Iraq's Green Zone.* New York: Knopf, 2006.

Cordesman, Anthony. *After the Storm.* Denver: Westview Press, 1993.

Darwish, Adel and Gregory Alexander. *Unholy Babylon: The Secret History of Saddam's War.* London: Diane, 1991.

Galbraith, Peter W. *The End of Iraq: How American Incompetence Created a War Without End.* New York: Simon & Schuster. 2006.

Gettleman, Marvin E. and Stuart Schaar, editors. *The Middle East and Islamic World Reader.* New York: Grove Press. 2003.

Hamza, Khidir. *Saddam's Bombmaker: The Daring Escape of the Man Who Built Iraq's Secret Weapon.* New York: Touchstone Books, 2001.

Hayden, Tom. *Ending the War in Iraq.* New York: Akashic Book, 2007.

Khalidi, Rashid. *Resurrecting Empire: Western Footprints and America's Perilous Path in the Middle East.* Boston: Beacon Press. 2004.

Kinzer, Stephen. *Overthrow: America's Century of Regime Change from Hawaii to Iraq.* New York: Times Books. 2006.

Kristol, William and Lawrence F. Kaplan, *The War over Iraq: Saddam's Tyranny and America's Mission.* New York: Encounter Books, 2003.

Pitt, William Rivers and Scott Ritter. *War on Iraq: What Team Bush Doesn't Want You to Know.* New York: Context Books, 2003.

Ricks, Thomas E. *Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq.* New York: Penguin Press. 2006.

Ritter, Scott. *Endgame: Solving the Iraq Crisis.* New York: Simon and Schuster, 2002.

Sifry, Micah L. and Christopher Cerf, editors. *The Iraq War Reader: History, Documents, and Opinions.* New York: Touchstone. 2003.

Solomon, Norman, et al. *Target Iraq: What the News Media Didn't Tell You.* New York: Context Books, 2003.

Tripp, Charles. *History of Iraq.* Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 2002.