

LEADING TO WAR

SEE WHERE THE TRUTH LIES

a film and website that chronicle the path to war in Iraq

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SYNOPSIS of THE FILM

How does a government lead its people to war? How does it communicate to its citizens – and to the wider world – the reasons and rationale for initiating military conflict? What rhetorical devices and techniques are employed? And how is a nation brought to support the profound decision to wage war against another nation? These are the questions that LEADING TO WAR seeks to explore.

This 72-minute film shows the evolution of the United States government's case for military action against Saddam Hussein's regime, leading to the Iraq War which began in 2003.

LEADING TO WAR is comprised entirely of archival news footage – without commentary, without voiceover – presented chronologically from President Bush's State of the Union address in January, 2002 (the "axis of evil" speech), and continuing up to the announcement of formal U.S. military action in Iraq on March 19, 2003.

Covering these 14 months, the film presents selected interviews, speeches, and press conferences given by President Bush and his administration, including Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of State Colin Powell, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, as well as by British Prime Minister Tony Blair and others.

This compressed, chronological view offers a unique opportunity to examine the media record from a historical perspective, allowing the material to speak for itself. Footage was licensed from major news sources, including ABC, AP, BBC, CNN, ITN, and NBC.

LEADING TO WAR is also intended as a historical record for future generations, who will not have had firsthand experience of the precise, incremental steps taken by the government in presenting its case for war.

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How did the U.S. government lead its people to war?

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