

Reconstructing Iraq: A Guide to the Issues

A joint publication of the Open Society Institute
and the United Nations Foundation
May 30, 2003

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“Reconstructing Iraq: A Guide to the Issues” is a research compendium designed to help interested parties understand and evaluate reconstruction activities in Iraq. The booklet provides extensive background information on a wide range of topics related to Iraq specifically and to reconstruction generally, as well as lists of experts and reports that can be consulted for further information.

The guide is divided into the following sections:

- **The Legal Framework for Intervention in Iraq**

Outlines the legal issues governing the occupation of Iraq by the U.S.-led coalition, and the implications of Security Council Resolution 1483 of May 22, 2003. Summarizes the main provisions of Resolution 1483 and the body of international law governing obligations of occupying forces, and explains potential tensions between the two.

- **U.S. Planning for Reconstruction**

Explains the evolution of U.S. plans for the reconstruction of Iraq, focusing on the creation of the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance (ORHA) and the reported tensions surrounding the division of labor between agencies of the Executive Branch.

- **Traditional Actors in Post-Conflict Reconstruction**

Describes key players in past reconstruction efforts, including the United Nations, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, and regional and ad-hoc security alliances. Summarizes how they operate and their ongoing or likely involvement in Iraq, including descriptions of UN activities and the UN Oil for Food Program.

- **Future Leaders: Ethnic, Religious, and Political Diversity in Iraq**

Details the major ethnic, religious and political divisions in Iraq and the challenges they pose for forming a new representative government. Includes information on the various groups vying for power in post-conflict Iraq and their relationships with the United States.

- **Governance of Iraq**

Outlines the administration’s announced plans for establishing a future Iraqi government; highlights necessary steps for a successful transition to democracy that may be unaddressed or under-emphasized in the Administration’s plans (i.e. ensuring Iraqi participation and ownership of the process); and discusses the current and potential role played by the UN. Details the implications of Resolution 1483 for the governance process. Also includes principles for governance laid out by Iraqi leaders and the UN.

Reconstructing Iraq: A Guide to the Issues

A joint publication of the Open Society Institute
and the United Nations Foundation

May 30, 2003

- **Assessing Reconstruction Needs**

An extensive review drawn from expert reports and recommendations, divided into short-term needs (up to 3 months) and medium- to long-term needs (3-12 months and beyond). Discusses short-term needs including security, humanitarian relief, weapons inspection and interim justice mechanisms. Outlines a wide range of medium- and long-term needs, including economic rehabilitation; establishment of a new legal system; justice and accountability for atrocities and war crimes; health and education systems; rebuilding infrastructure; control of natural resources; and gender issues. Also includes discussions of cost estimates for reconstruction and the U.S. process for awarding reconstruction contracts.

- **History of Past Reconstruction Efforts**

Compares previous UN and U.S.-led reconstruction efforts. Discusses the benefits of burden sharing, longevity, and institutional expertise offered by a multilateral approach. Presents concise case studies of largely successful UN-led reconstruction efforts in East Timor and Kosovo. Examines the unique and ongoing case of Afghanistan.

- **Public Opinion**

Presents survey data on American attitudes about post-conflict reconstruction in Iraq, including the roles and responsibilities of the U.S. and the UN, concerns about difficulties and costs of reconstruction, and the importance of a multilateral approach.

For more information please contact:
Christopher Madison
202-721-5600
cmadison@osi-dc.org
Full report available at www.osi-dc.org