

On destroying civilian infrastructure during the Gulf War and consequences for the civilian population.

Secretary of State James Baker III before the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, May 27, 1991

"That means **we will never normalize relations with Iraq so long as Saddam Hussein remains in power**. That means maintaining UN sanctions in place so long as Saddam remains in power. And that means Iraqis will not participate in post-crisis political, economic, and security arrangements **until there is a change in regime**." (emphasis added)

"Allied Air War Struck Broadly in Iraq --- Officials Acknowledge Strategy Went Beyond Purely Military Targets" Washington Post, June 23, 1991

...

The worst civilian suffering, senior [American] officers say, has resulted not from bombs that went astray but from precision-guided weapons that hit exactly where they were aimed --- at electrical plants ... Now nearly four months after the war's end, Iraq's electrical generation has reached only 20 to 25 percent of its prewar capacity of 9,000 to 9,500 megawatts.

...

"People say, 'You didn't recognize that it was going to have an effect on water or sewage,'" said the planning officer. "Well, what were we trying to do with [United Nations-approved economic] sanctions --- help out the Iraqi people? No. **What we were doing with the attacks on infrastructure was to accelerate the effect of sanctions**." ... Col. John Warden III, deputy director of strategy, doctrine and plans for the Air Force, agreed that one purpose of destroying Iraq's electrical grid was that "you have imposed a long-term problem on the leadership that it has to deal with sometime." "Saddam Hussein cannot restore his own electricity," he said. "He needs help. **If there are political objectives that the U.N. coalition has, it can say, 'Saddam, when you agree to do these things, we will allow people to come in and fix your electricity.' It gives us long-term leverage.**"

"Bombing Dual-Use Targets: Legal, Ethical, and Doctrinal Perspectives"

by Kenneth R. Rizer, (USAF) *Air & Space Power Chronicles*, May 1, 2001

"A key example of such dual-use targeting was the destruction of Iraqi electrical power facilities in Desert Storm. While crippling Iraq's military command and control capability, **destruction of these facilities shut down water purification and sewage treatment plants. As a result, epidemics of gastroenteritis, cholera, and typhoid broke out, leading to perhaps as many as 100,000 civilian deaths and a doubling of the infant mortality rate**. Given such effects on non-combatants, are electrical power facilities legitimate military targets? Does airpower doctrine acknowledge, support, or condemn such indirect effects? Must air campaign planners weigh these indirect effects in their target selection process?"

... "Finally, **the US Air Force has a vested interest in attacking dual-use targets so long as dual-use target destruction serves the double role of destroying legitimate military capabilities and indirectly targeting civilian morale**. So long as this remains within the letter if not the spirit of the law and the JWE [Christian Just-War Ethic], the Air Force will cling to the status quo."

"Special Article: Effect of the Gulf War on Infant and Child Mortality in Iraq"

New England Journal of Medicine, **September, 1992**, vol. 327, pp. 931-6. By Ascherio A., et al

Conclusions. These results provide strong evidence that the Gulf war and trade sanctions caused a threefold increase in mortality among Iraqi children under five years of age. **We estimate that an excess of more than 46,900 children died between January and August 1991.**

...

Our data demonstrate the link between the events that occurred in 1991 (war, civilian uprising, and economic embargo) and the subsequent increase in mortality. The destruction of the supply of electric power at the beginning of the war, with the subsequent disruption of the electricity-dependent water and sewage systems, was probably responsible for the reported epidemics of gastrointestinal and other infections.

"The Sleep of Reason Produces Monsters -- Human Costs of Economic Sanctions"

New England Journal of Medicine, **April 24, 1997**, vol. 336(17), pp. 1248-1250.

Editorial by Leon Eisenberg, M.D., Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA.

Iraq is an even more disastrous example of war against the public health. ... **The destruction of the country's power plants had brought its entire system of water purification and distribution to a halt, leading to epidemics of cholera, typhoid fever, and gastroenteritis, particularly among children. Mortality rates doubled or tripled among children admitted to hospitals in Baghdad and Basra.** Cases of marasmus appeared for the first time in decades. The team observed "suffering of tragic proportions... [with children] dying of preventable diseases and starvation." Although the allied bombing had caused few civilian casualties, **the destruction of the infrastructure resulted in devastating long-term effects on health.**

...

The Cuban and Iraqi instances make it abundantly clear that **economic sanctions are, at their core, a war against public health.** Our professional ethic demands the defense of public health. Thus, as physicians, we have a moral imperative to call for the end of sanctions. Having found the cause, we must act to remove it. Continuing to allow our reason to sleep will produce more monsters.

"Hall Urges U.S. Government to Review 'Holds' on Iraqi Civilians' Needs"

Excerpt of U.S. Congressional Representative Tony Hall's press release, **June 28, 2000**

"I share UNICEF's concerns about the profound effects of increasing deterioration of Iraq's water supply and sanitation systems on its children's health. **The prime killer of children under five years of age - diarrhoeal diseases - has reached epidemic proportions and they now strike four times more often than they did in 1990. Holds on contracts for the water and sanitation sector are a prime reason for the increases in sickness and death,**" Hall wrote. **Of the 18 contracts, all but one hold was placed by the U.S. Government.** The contracts are for purification chemicals, chlorinators, chemical dosing pumps, water tankers, and other equipment.

"Iraq may go down in history as the greatest disaster in American foreign policy"

Madeleine Albright, *U.S. News & World Report*, **January 2, 2008**

Full fuller quotes and citations of the above, see ConcernForIraq.org/infrastructure

Also, IraqiKids.org and theCapitolHillTalks.com/Bert-Sacks-bringing-medicine-to-Iraq