

ABSTRACT**المخلص باللغة الانجليزية**

This thesis endeavors to analytically examine American foreign policy towards Iraq during the period 1990-2006. It in fact critically studies a very fundamental period in American foreign policy, that which represents one of the more important cornerstones of its economic interests.

The first chapter examines the way decisions are made in the United States of America (US) and the difficulties involved in the decision-making process especially given the fact that as a state the US relies, in its decision-making, on a variety of institutions rather than on individuals, this is in addition to the influence that pressure groups and the Zionist Lobby have on American foreign policy in the Middle East and the Gulf in general and its policy towards Iraq in particular and its strategic interests in the region as well as the reasons that led the US to occupy and control Iraq. This chapter addresses also the importance of the Gulf for the US as well as the first Gulf war of 1990.

In addition, it examines the real reasons and aims behind America's war in Iraq and puts some emphasis on the importance of oil and American hegemony in the region as well as the connection of all of that to the security and stability of its ally Israel. These issues were discussed in some details especially how the US managed to lead Iraq to occupy Kuwait and how this enabled it to eventually lead a war against Iraq under the slogan of ' the liberation of Kuwait'.

The second chapter puts emphasis on two issues: President Bill Clinton's policy towards Iraq as well as the UN resolutions and the

economic sanctions that were passed against it. With regards to the first issue, the discussion included an analysis of the internal situation and its impact on American foreign policy and a discussion of the idea that such policy is unitary reflecting nevertheless the idiosyncrasy of each President. The chapter addresses also the three phases that characterized American foreign policy in that period: the Clinton's administration, the policy of containment and American decision to abandon its insistence on Iraq's cooperation with the UN special envoys to Iraq. With regards to the second issue, emphasis was put on UN resolutions regarding Iraq as well as the economic sanctions that were passed against it and the impact that these sanctions had on Iraq and the Iraqi people.

The third chapter examines the policy of George Bush the son towards Iraq through analyzing his personal life and the impact that religion, American intellectual trends and the events of September 11 have had on his foreign policy towards the region. The chapters includes also a discussion of American strategic thought as well as its conceptions regarding the national interests and the transformation that took place in American policy: from a policy of deterrence and containment to a policy of prevention. Finally the chapter discusses the reasons and aims behind America's decision to lead an illegal war against Iraq.

The very last section discusses the future prospects of American foreign policy in Iraq and the possible scenarios regarding its overall position towards the future of Iraq as a country.