

Greenspan: The Iraq War is largely about oil

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Comments by Alan Greenspan, the former Federal Reserve Chairman, have been known to roil the international economic markets. His recently released book contains substantial criticism of President Bush's lack of fiscal discipline, but perhaps more importantly, it provides his starkly honest assessment of Bush's political motives for the war in Iraq.

Included in his new book, *The Age of Turbulence: Adventures in a New World*, are sharp critiques of Bush's rationale for the war in Iraq.

"Whatever their publicized angst over Saddam Hussein's 'weapons of mass destruction,' American and British authorities were also concerned about violence in the area that harbors a resource indispensable for the functioning of the world economy. I am saddened that it is politically inconvenient to acknowledge what everyone knows: the Iraq war is largely about oil."

Greenspan also noted that he, "thought the issue of weapons of mass destruction as the excuse was utterly beside the point," in an interview with the [Guardian](#).

Coming from a Bush Administration insider familiar with its political operations, Greenspan's acknowledgements are profound. What Alan Greenspan describes in his book is what I have always believed: President Bush misled us into this war in Iraq. I voted against the authorization of the war because I felt strongly that avenues of diplomacy had not been exhausted or even used, and that preemptive war as a means of preventing possible terrorist attacks was unjust.

Many of you have shared your frustrations over the war in the past few weeks, one constituent writing to me that "the war in Iraq remains the most unnecessary, unjustifiable, illegal and immoral war effort in American history."

I remain committed to ending this war and refocusing our nation's efforts on fighting the real threats of terrorism around the world, and will work with my colleagues in the House in the coming weeks to address the dire situation in Iraq.