

Delve Deeper into "My Country, My Country"

A film by Laura Poitras

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Jennifer Ewing of the San Diego Public Library in partnership with the American Library Association, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "My Country, My Country" that premieres on October 25, 2006 at 9 p.m. on PBS (check local listings at www.pbs.org/pov/).

Working alone in Iraq over eight months, filmmaker Laura Poitras creates an extraordinarily intimate portrait of Iraqis living under U.S. occupation. Her principal focus is Dr. Riyadh, an Iraqi medical doctor, father of six and Sunni political candidate. An outspoken critic of the occupation, he is equally passionate about the need to establish democracy in Iraq, arguing that Sunni participation in the January 2005 elections is essential. Yet all around him, Dr. Riyadh sees only chaos, as his waiting room fills each day with patients suffering the physical and mental effects of ever-increasing violence. Poitras gained remarkable access to the Sunni community, U.S. military and the U.N., resulting in "My Country, My Country," a powerful mosaic of daily life in Iraq not seen in the mainstream media.

ADULT NONFICTION

Ali, Tariq. *Bush in Babylon: The Recolonisation of Iraq*. New York: Verso, 2003. Examines the war and the Iraqi resistance it provoked.

Anderson, Liam D. and Gareth Stansfield. *The Future of Iraq: Dictatorship, Democracy, or Division?* New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004. The future of Iraq is governed by its past and a partition might be the only option.

Aslan, Reza. *No God But God: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam*. New York: Random House, 2005. Explains Islam in all its complexity, beauty, and compassion.

Bird, Christiane. *A Thousand Sighs, A Thousand Revolts: Journeys in Kurdistan*. New York: Ballantine Books, 2004. Traveling through Kurdistan, the author tells the Kurd's story through

personal observations and in-depth research to reveal their history and culture.

Braude, Joseph. *The New Iraq: Rebuilding the Country for Its People, The Middle East, and The World*. New York: Basic Books, 2003. Describes the challenges ahead of Iraq as it attempts to transform its political, economic and social systems.

Bremer, L. Paul. *My Year in Iraq: The Struggle to Build a Future of Hope*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2006. Ambassador Bremer's account of his role as Iraq's civilian administrator as he struggled to restore order while trying to establish democratic institutions.

Carothers, Thomas and Marina Ottaway. *Uncharted Journey: Promoting Democracy in the Middle East*. Washington, DC: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2005. An exploration of the opportunities and obstacles of the U.S. policy of promoting democracy in the Middle East.

Catherwood, Christopher. *Churchill's Folly: How Winston Churchill Created Modern Iraq*. New York: Carroll & Graf Pub., 2004. Examines Churchill's creation of Iraq after WWI and the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire.

Chehab, Zaki. *Inside the Resistance: The Iraqi Insurgency and the Future of the Middle East*. New York: Nation Books, 2005. Based upon first-hand reportage and interviews, the author provides insight into the methods of the resistance movements and the extent of foreign involvement.

Clarke, Richard A. *Against All Enemies: Inside America's War on Terror*. New York: Free Press, 2004. Clarke, a former advisor for George W. Bush, scrutinizes the Bush Administration's failure to accept Al-Qaeda as a threat before 9/11; instead choosing to focus on Iraq.

Cushman, Thomas, ed. *A Matter of Principle: Humanitarian Arguments for War in Iraq*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2005. A

collection of articles from politicians, dissidents, editors and academics in support of the humanitarian reasons for the war.

Danchev, Alex and John MacMillan. *The Iraq War and Democratic Politics*. New York: Routledge, 2005. Leading scholars examine the political repercussions of the Iraq war and the implications for democracy.

Diamond, Larry Jay. *Squandered Victory: The American Occupation and the Bungled Effort to Bring Democracy to Iraq*. New York: Times Books, 2005. An insider's account of the U.S. occupation of Iraq with an assessment of America's effort to instill democracy.

Dudley, William, ed. *Iraq: Opposing Viewpoints*. San Diego, CA: Thomson Gale, 2004. This well-known series that explores both sides of current issues covers the controversy surrounding the Iraq war, including articles written by Iraqis, Kurds and Muslims.

Feldman, Noah. *After Jihad: America and the Struggle for Islamic Democracy*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003. Feldman argues that Islam and democracy are not incompatible.

Feldman, Noah. *What We Owe Iraq: War and the Ethics of Nation Building*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2004. A constitutional advisor discusses the ethics of nation building and the responsibilities of the United States in supporting the creation of a democracy.

Goldfarb, Michael. *Ahmad's War, Ahmad's Peace: Surviving Under Saddam, Dying in the New Iraq*. New York: Carroll & Graf, 2005. A tribute to Ahmad Shawkat, an outspoken critic of Islamic intolerance and violence, who was murdered during the American occupation.

Gordon, Michael R. and Bernard E. Trainor. *Cobra II: The Inside Story of the Invasion and Occupation of Iraq*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. Investigates the war in Iraq through a vast resource of government documents and interviews with government officials.

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Hassan bin Talal, Prince of Jordan. *To Be a Muslim: Islam, Peace, and Democracy.* Portland, OR: Sussex Academic Press, 2004. The Jordanian prince's personal statement about the essence of Islam and his attempt to reconcile it to the West.

Hersh, Seymour M. *Chain of Command: The Road from 9/11 to Abu Ghraib.* New York: Harper Collins, 2004. Hersh details the many events and accounts emerging from the U.S.'s "War on Terror" through a series of high-profile sources.

Hunt, Courtney. *The History of Iraq.* Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2005. Examines the history of Iraq from the earliest Mesopotamian settlements to the present.

Khalidi, Rashid. *Resurrecting Empire: Western Footprints and America's Perilous Path in the Middle East.* New York: Beacon Press, 2005. Examines the history of Western influence in the Middle East and the possible solutions for achieving a peaceful outcome.

Mamdani, Mahmood. *Good Muslim, Bad Muslim: America, the Cold War, and the Roots of Terror.* New York: Doubleday, 2005. Investigates the root causes, including the U.S.'s role, in the rise of Islamic Fundamentalism.

Marr, Phebe. *The Modern History of Iraq.* Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2004. A political and economic history from the fall of the Ottoman Empire to the fall of Ba'athist President Saddam Hussein in 2003.

McKiernan, Kevin. *The Kurds: A People in Search of Their Homeland.* New York: St. Martin's Press, 2006. A journalist travels among the Kurds, the world's largest stateless ethnic group.

Nakash, Yitzhak. *The Shi'is of Iraq.* Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1994. The first comprehensive book about the Shiites of Iraq, the country's majority group.

Nakash, Yitzhak. *Reaching For Power: The Shi'a in the Modern*

Arab World. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2006. The Shi'is, the largest group in Iraq, are crucial to the U.S.'s attempt to bring democracy to the Middle East.

Nasr, Vali. *The Shia Revival: How Conflicts within Islam Will Shape the Future.* New York: W.W.Norton, 2006. Explores the conflict between Shia and Sunni Muslims and the impact of this divide throughout the Middle East.

Nivat, Anne. *The Wake of War: Encounters with the People of Iraq and Afghanistan.* Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 2005. An account of the author's six-month journey after the American invasions in Afghanistan and Iraq that weaves interviews of Iraqis and Afghans with her personal impressions.

Packer, George. *The Assassins' Gate: America in Iraq.* New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005. In an attempt to change the history of the Middle East, the United States has become embroiled in a guerrilla war.

Parenti, Christian. *The Freedom: Shadows and Hallucinations in Occupied Iraq.* New York: New Press, 2004. Dispatches from a magazine reporter about the chaos the war has caused in the lives of Iraqis in occupied Baghdad.

Ricks, Thomas E. *Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq.* New York: Penguin, 2006. Chronicles military events in Iraq from the beginning of the war through the insurgency. Includes military records and interviews with military officials.

Riverbend. *Baghdad Burning: Girl Blog from Iraq.* New York: The Feminist Press at the City University of New York, 2005. An Iraqi woman's blog. Her eyewitness accounts of the everyday realities in Baghdad are punctuated by astute analysis on the politics behind events.

Rubin, Barry M. *The Long War for Freedom: The Arab Struggle for Democracy in the Middle East.* Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2006. Examines the history of reform in the Arab world and shows how hostile clerics,

government oppression and entrenched cultural attitudes have thwarted democratic impulses.

Sada, Georges. *Saddam's Secrets.* Nashville, TN: Integrity Publishers, 2004. One of Saddam's top military advisors reveals the truth about the dictator's plans for the Middle East.

Saikal, Amin, and Albrecht Schnabel, eds. *Democratization in the Middle East: Experiences, Struggles, Challenges.* Tokyo: United Nations University Press, 2003. Addresses the key issues that will determine the success or failure of democracy in the Middle East.

Salam Pax. *Salam Pax: The Clandestine Diary of an Ordinary Iraqi.* New York: Grove Press, 2003. Based upon his blog, these incisive and sharply funny Web postings provide one of the most immediate and gripping accounts of the Iraq conflict.

Shadid, Anthony. *Night Draws Near: Iraq's People in the Shadow of America's War.* New York: Henry Holt, 2005. Shadid describes the human story of ordinary Iraqis surviving the impact of America's invasion and occupation that anticipated hopes for democracy but resulted in a rise of a bloody insurgency.

Selzerstad, Asne. *A Hundred and One Days: A Baghdad Journal.* New York: Basic Books, 2005. An account of the daily life of the Iraqi people from the last days of Saddam's regime through the chaos caused by the American invasion.

Suskind, Ron. *The One Percent Doctrine: Deep Inside America's Pursuits Of Its Enemies Since 9/11.* New York: Simon & Schuster, 2006. A look into the successes and failures of counterterrorism efforts by the United States.

Takeyh, Ray. *The Receding Shadow of the Prophet: The Rise and Fall of Radical Political Islam.* Westport, CT: Praeger, 2004. Radical Islamic movements have failed to present a workable model of governance and, despite their use of violence, have failed to topple secular regimes in Egypt and Algeria.

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Tripp, Charles. *A History of Iraq.* New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002. Traces Iraq's political history from its nineteenth-century roots through mid-2002.

West, Francis J. *No True Glory: A Frontline Account of the Battle for Fallujah.* New York: Bantam Books, 2005. A frontline account of the soldiers and their struggle against Iraqi resistance.

Wilson, Mike, ed. *Democracy: Opposing Viewpoints.* Detroit, MI: Greenhaven Press, 2006. This well-known series explores both sides of current issues, debates the state of democracy, the role of religion in democracy and whether democracy is suitable for all nations.

Woodward, Bob. *Plan of Attack.* New York: Simon & Schuster, 2004. Examines the Bush Administration's motives for going to war in Iraq. Includes interviews with George W. Bush in addition to top-level officials in the White House and CIA.

Wright, Lawrence. *The Looming Tower: Al Qaeda and the Road to 9/11.* New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. An in-depth look at the history of Al-Qaeda and the rise of its leaders; Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri.

Zinsmeister, Karl. *Dawn Over Baghdad: How the U.S. Military is Using Bullets and Ballots to Remake Iraq.* San Francisco, CA: Encounter Books, 2004. A close-up look at the guerilla struggle in Iraq and at Iraqi citizens' support of the U.S. occupation.

NEWS ARTICLES

Packer, George. "War After the War: What Washington doesn't see in Iraq." *The New Yorker*, November 24, 2003, p.59. A personalized look into Iraq during the war and the following insurgency.

ADULT FICTION

Khedairi, Betool. *A Sky So Close.* New York: Pantheon Books, 2001. A coming-of-age story that chronicles how the daughter of an

Iraqi father and an English mother finds her way between cultures as Iraq goes to war with Iran.

Mamduh, Aliyah. *Naphtalene: A Novel of Baghdad.* New York: The Feminist Press at the City University of New York, 2005. Seen through the eyes of a strong-willed and perceptive young girl, Naphtalene beautifully captures the atmosphere of Baghdad in the 1940s and 1950s.

Takarli, Fu'ad. *The Long Way Back.* New York: American University in Cairo Press, 2001. The story of four generations of the same family living in an old house in the Bab al-Shaykh area of Baghdad.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Al-Windawi, Thura. *Thura's Diary: My Life in Wartime Iraq.* New York: Viking, 2004. Nineteen-year-old Thura al-Windawi kept a diary during the conflict in Iraq.

Anderson, Dale. *Saddam Hussein.* Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications, 2004. A biography of the powerful president of Iraq, Saddam Hussein, whose rule began in 1979.

Downing, David. *Democracy.* Chicago, IL: Heinemann Library, 2003. Explains how this system of governing began. It traces the evolution of democracy from Greece and Rome to the United States and discusses the potential for democracy in other countries.

Fast, April. *Iraq the Culture.* New York: Crabtree Pub. Co., 2005. Iraq has contributed many things to world culture including writing, temples and the wheel.

Gordon, Matthew. *Islam.* New York: Facts On File, 2001. An overview of Islam's impact historically and in the modern world as well as its origin, basic beliefs, places of worship and rites of passage.

Miller, Debra A. *Iraq.* San Diego, CA: Greenhaven Press, 2004. Middle East experts examine the history of Iraq and the issues of intervention and the postwar Iraq.

Phillips, Larissa. *A Historical Atlas of Iraq.* New York: Rosen Pub. Group, 2003. Students can follow the history of the Sumerians, Assyrians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs and Mongols, who have all lived and prospered in the region.

Richie, Jason. *Iraq and the Fall of Saddam Hussein.* Minneapolis, MN: Oliver Hussein, 2003. Examines Saddam Hussein's rise to power in Iraq and discusses the Iran-Iraq War, the Persian Gulf War, the United Nations' efforts to disarm Iraq and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sears, Evelyn. *Muslims and the West.* Broomall, PA: Mason Crest Publishers, 2004. An overview of the religion, its relations to other faiths, its growth in North America and the socioeconomic conditions of Muslim countries.

Stamaty, Mark Alan. *Alia's Mission: Saving the Books of Iraq: Inspired by a True Story.* New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2004. An Iraqi librarian's courageous fight to save books from the Basra Central Library before it was destroyed in the war.

Winter, Jeanette. *The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq.* Orlando: Harcourt, Inc., 2005. A picture book about Alia Muhammad Baker's rescue of the books from the Basra Library in 2003.

Young, Jeff C. *Operation Iraqi Freedom.* Berkeley Heights, NJ: MyReportLinks.com Books, 2003. Discusses the threat posed by Saddam Hussein's dictatorial regime, the events leading to the United States attack on Iraq and the aftermath of that conflict.

Zwier, Lawrence J. *The Persian Gulf and Iraqi Wars.* Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Pub. Group, 2005. Discusses the two Iraqi wars and the challenges of establishing peace.

FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Alrawi, Karim. *The Girl Who Lost Her Smile.* Delray Beach, FL:

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Winslow Press, 2000. A story, inspired by the writings of Jallal al-Din Rumi in a collection of Sufi poetry and short stories known as Mathnawi, about Jehan, a young girl living in Baghdad who unexpectedly finds reason to smile.

Heide, Florence Parry and Judith Heide Gilliland. *The House of Wisdom.* New York: DK Ink, 1999. Ishaq, the son of the chief translator to the Caliph of ancient Baghdad, travels the world in search of precious books and manuscripts and brings them back to the great library known as the House of Wisdom.

Laird, Elizabeth. *Kiss the Dust.* New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1992. Her father's involvement with the Kurdish resistance movement in Iraq forces thirteen-year-old Tara to flee with her family over the border into Iran, where they face an unknown future.

Marston, Elsa. *Figs and Fate: Stories About Growing Up in the Arab World Today.* New York: George Braziller, 2005. A collection of five short stories told from the perspective of young Arab teens living in Syria, Lebanon, a Palestinian refugee camp, Egypt and Iraq.

Osborne, Mary Pope. *Season of the Sandstorms.* New York: Random House, 2005. Guided by a magic rhyme, Jack and Annie travel to ancient Baghdad on a mission to help the Caliph disseminate wisdom to the world.

VIDEOS/DOCUMENTARIES

"The Survival of Saddam." A film by Greg Barker. PBS Video, 2000, 1996. (56 min.) Examines how despite the Gulf War, economic sanctions, no-fly zones and military attacks from the Iraqi opposition, Saddam Hussein has been able to hold onto power.
www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/saddam/

"About Baghdad." A film by InCounter Productions. Arab Film Distribution, 2005. (90 min.) Antoon explores what Iraqis think and feel about the post-war situation and the complex relationship between the U.S. and Iraq in July 2003.

"Control Room." A film by Hani Salama and Rosadel Varela. Artisan Home Entertainment, 2004. (86 min.) A rare window into the international perception of the Iraq War, courtesy of Al Jazeera.

"Turtles Can Fly." A film by MIJ Film/Bahman Ghobadi. Metro Goldwyn Mayer Home Entertainment, 2005. (98 min.) Soran is a 13-year-old boy who orders other children around as he installs an antennae for villagers interested in hearing about Saddam's fall. Eventually, he falls for Agrin but is disturbed by her brother Henkov who can seemingly predict the future.

"The Dreams of Sparrows." A film by Aaron Raskin. Go Kart Films, 2005. (75 min.) Follows Iraqi director Hayder Mousa Daffar and his team of contributing filmmakers as they share their vision of life in Baghdad under the U.S. occupation.

WEB SITES

P.O.V.'s "My Country, My Country"
www.pbs.org/pov/pov2006/mycountry

Includes an interview with the filmmaker, resources, special features and more.

NPR: Iraq
www.npr.org/iraq/
An ongoing report from NPR about Iraq, including analysis, commentary, politics, interviews, and more, in audio and video clips.

Country Profile: Iraq
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/country_profiles/791014.stm#facts

BBC's country profile includes a brief review of recent history, an overview of Iraq's leaders and available media and links to timelines for Iraq and Iraqi Kurds.

Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq
www.ieciraq.org/English/Frame_set_english.htm

Facts about the IEI and Iraqi elections, including information about the candidates, voter information (including posters),

election rules and regulations and polling results. In English and Arabic.

Iraq Election Scenarios: Anticipating Alternative Futures
www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr142.html

United States Institute of Peace sponsored a series of three scenario-planning workshops from August 2004 to January 2005 with Iraq experts designed to anticipate Iraq election outcomes.

Iraq Election At-A-Glance
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/4033263.stm
BBC's overview of the January 30, 2005 election in Iraq, including key issues surrounding the vote and how it would take place.

Iraq Elections: Road to Democracy
<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/iraqelect/index.htm>
A history of the January 2005 elections and how it fit into the larger plans for establishing a democracy in Iraq. An online version of a pamphlet produced by the U.S. State Department.

Life in Post-Saddam Iraq
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/spl/hi/in_depth/post_saddam_iraq/html/1.stm

Part of BBC's In Depth section featuring statistical and graphical information about life in Iraq, including data about reconstruction, security, people, oil, health, cost of living and education.

Principles of Democracy
<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/principles/>

A series of one-page primers about the fundamentals of democracy reflecting the practices of many free societies under systems of democratic governance. Available in eleven languages.

Riverbend's Blog
<http://riverbendblog.blogspot.com/>

A blog started in 2003 by a 24-year-old Iraqi woman. She writes with an immediacy that is striking and poignant. Published in book form as *Baghdad Burning: Girl Blog From Iraq* by Riverbend.

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CBC News Indepth: Iraq

www.cbc.ca/news/background/iraq/

CBC News' in-depth look at the recent history and background information about Iraq which led to the present conflict and the 2005 Iraqi elections.

UN Assistance Mission for Iraq

www.uniraq.org/

Created by the UNAMI—Humanitarian Coordination Team in Amman—to provide information related to the UN's mission and its various agencies in Iraq.

The CIA World Factbook: Iraq

www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/iz.html

Key facts about Iraq, including geography, people, government, communications, and more, from *The World Factbook*, published annually by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).