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Anti-war protests: Can the rallies make a difference?

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Talking Point Forum

[OPEN IN NEW WINDOW](#) : Anti-war protests

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Millions of people around the globe are taking part in a series of protests against the prospect of a US-led military invasion of Iraq.

Two of the largest demonstrations are being held in New York and London, where hundreds of thousands of people at a rally which culminated in Hyde Park.

Protests are also taking place in Berlin, Paris, Rome, Cape Town, Athens, Tokyo, Dublin, San Francisco, Amsterdam and Toronto.

Did you attend an anti-war rally? Why do you



Full coverage

Key stories

- Inspectors' key points
- Reaction at UN
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- Security Council divided
- Blix tiptoes tightrope
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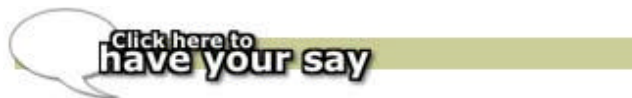
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think it was important to be there? Or do you disagree with the aims of the demonstrators? Are the protesters right or misguided?



There seem to be a number of people missing the point. The official (the truth may well be another matter entirely) line is that the US want to attack Iraq because it has weapons of mass destruction, not because it thinks Saddam is a bad man to his people. In the event of war, Saddam will be safely tucked away somewhere, it is ordinary folk like you and me who will suffer (further).

Sharron, England

Of course I will go and march. It is the only way that people will be able to show how they feel about the war and their government should respect it. The only thing that the war will bring about is deaths and famine for the Iraqi people and distress to the rest of the world; their leader will keep up with his work. I think that the anti-war marches are a great way to show how the public opinion feels about the war!

Anna, Athens Greece

Here we go again! All those tired, washed up ex-celebs and ineffectual politicians [I'm only surprised that Charles Kennedy decided he would go.

Barbara Cook, England

Does anyone think that if Saddam is allowed to develop nuclear weapons, which will likely be shared

Inspectors' report:
 Point by point



Your views on inspectors' report



Your pictures flood in!



'My views on Iraq'

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with terrorist organizations, that after they are detonated in London and New York, there will be anti war protests being held in Baghdad?

Alan Resnick, Chicago USA

The only credible thing about this march is that it includes a lot of people who don't know why they are marching. I have already heard marchers on BBC News24 struggle to defend the reasons they are marching, other than to say it is their right! Yes it is. You feel good believing that your actions are not taking the lives of thousands. But in supporting Saddam and dictator states with your peace on earth stance you have the blood of thousands on your hands who wouldn't have the rights to wander around the streets waving posters against their leaders - for they would be tortured or killed.

Jade, UK

Neither Britain nor America have the right to tell other states what they can and cannot have in their country. This decision must be made by the UN. Armed intervention is therefore only justifiable following a UN declaration that Iraq poses a threat to international security. America can not sit on a nuclear arsenal and dictate what weapons other countries are allowed to possess. I therefore support the march.

John, UK

Surely no-one protesting today wants to show support for the tyrannical regime in Iraq. But the US and UK have supported it themselves whenever it suited them, as indeed they shore up despotic

inspection team)
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regimes around the world. I simply cannot support the hypocrisy.

Katherine, Italy

People who propose war are the real cowards. They do so in anonymity and from the comfort of being out of range. Why are there no pro-war demonstrations?

Patrick Egan, Ireland

My fear about the possible war is this, if the purpose is to remove Saddam Hussein I can guarantee he won't die. As usual in all wars the vast majority of deaths will be people who have no direct influence on events - whether they be from the forces of our and other countries or civilians in Iraq. I don't hate the people of Iraq and I'm sure they don't hate me. This situation can only enforce my view that without politicians of any political view the world would be a safer place.

Chris Edwards, Winchester, Hampshire

I fully support the positive stance taken by the US and UK against Saddam Hussein and his tyranny. There is no alternative. The appeasers and apologetics can protest as much as they like as far as I am concerned. All they are doing is giving comfort and encouragement to a corrupt and evil regime.

David Fell, UK

“ Freedom has to be fought for, and the people of Iraq have no such right

”

Nigel MacDonald,
UK

I marched yesterday in the first of the weekend

marches, in Melbourne. It was a wonderful feeling to be with over 150,000 people all opposed to our government's stance on the war. Our Prime Minister, like yours, does not have the support of the nation. Demonstrations can help change government policies. Remember Vietnam. May your streets ring out with the sound of marching feet!

Ann de Hugard, Melbourne, Australia

I think if all the money, effort and petrol spent by the millions of people protesting today was spent instead in discussing and tackling the fundamental social issues fuelling the Middle East crises, we would now be a lot further from starting a war. We are more interested in Hollywood sensation and our own bank balances than we are in saving the world - that's someone else's job isn't it? War now is the price of our apathy in years gone by. No war and more apathy will not improve the situation. I hope anti-war does not mean anti-action.

Duncan, London, UK

What these protesters conveniently forget is that their democratic right to protest is built on the bodies of two million dead and wounded in two world wars. Freedom has to be fought for, and the people of Iraq have no such right. They have two choices; Protest for Saddam OR be executed, or protest against Saddam AND be executed.

Nigel MacDonald, UK

Iraq's regime has an absolutely appalling human rights record. Those who march are supporting

“ The issue should be to remove the dictator and his government

this record as they are opposing the only possible method available to remove him from power.

Nick, Canada, Ex-UK

Having fought in the last Gulf War in 1992, I believe that little will be achieved in bombing Iraq. Many innocent people will be killed, and for what? The issue should be to remove the dictator and his government - not destroy the families of Iraq!

Clive Griffiths, Chichester, UK

There can be few things more futile than an anti-war march. The very fact that it is allowed to take place indicates that either the war is not serious or the government regards the march as irrelevant. Our soldiers are putting their lives on the line because it is their job. Marching around London waving a few flags and shouting mindless slogans seems rather self-indulgent to say the least.

Tom, Burnley, UK

I have never responded to anything on the web and had never planned to but reading some of the tripe from my fellow Americans let me just say that the majority of us are against the war just as the majority were and are against Bush.

Lee, Oregon, USA

I will be marching in London tomorrow. There must be a way at the beginning of the 21st century for all the nations of the world to address the problem of tyranny that does not depend on blowing up innocent men, women and children.

Steven Hill, Birmingham, UK

I'll be marching on Saturday in Glasgow with my family and friends who will be bringing their own children. I think it's important as parents to show children that war is unacceptable especially when there are viable alternatives. We will be at the SECC to let Tony Blair (who will be at a Labour Party conference) know that we object to this war being steamrollered along. Also, I think it is disgraceful that the Labour party have banned the demonstrators from using a PA system for speakers at the rally. This is supposed to be a democracy and they will not let us speak! I feel strongly against this war and it is our right to demonstrate and although people may say it's futile at least we can say, when the bombs start to fall that we did something about it - rather than sitting at home.

G. Harker, Scotland

I will be going to the march in London, not because I am anti-war, or anti war with Iraq, but because I feel our government has failed to make the case for a war

“ If we have doubts about the legitimacy of such a war, we should not be waging it ”

Jon Wilson, UK

now. Essentially I am a doubter. If we have doubts about the legitimacy of such a war, we should not be waging it. The risks of massive Middle Eastern instability are too great, and ironically we could force Saddam to use the very weapons of mass destruction we are told he is hiding.

Jon Wilson, UK

I read with interest the for and against protesting, I come to the conclusion that if the protestors want to protest let them travel to Iraq and do it there! That's

the real source of the problem! Let the other 90% of the world population get on with supporting their governments. Also, by the way, how long will it be before the thugs wreck the peaceful demonstrations I give it two hours max. Get a life!

Mitch, Scotland

I only wish that there would be some antiwar rally or demonstration to attend! But this is a HIPIC country desperately and naively hoping that the US will make things right for its citizens. The looming war which will impact more negatively on countries like this than anywhere else, is therefore a non event. Not even in the myriad so called Christian churches here are prayers offered up to stop the aggressors from their foolish war. Bury our heads in the sand is our motto here and we are sticking to it!


Yolande M.Agble, Ghana

Well, if our Guardians haven't scared us half to death with terrorist "threats" then I expect the turn-out will be huge. But Tony Blair of course will have his eyes shut tight, fingers in ears, shouting loudly so he can't see or hear anything he doesn't like. Meanwhile... has everyone forgotten the reality of IRA terrorist attacks in London? Terror? London? So what else is new?

John Dover, UK

I doubt we will see many Iraqi refugees marching this weekend, they at least understand the true nature of tyranny.

Gordon McStraun, UK

no 'facts' to justify this war. The 

figures they have in the first place are not based on fact but rather on hearsay. They started inspections on the premise that if we find anything you are damned, and if we don't find anything you are damned. What incentive does that give anybody to try and come back into the law abiding international community?

” The figures they have in the first place are not based on fact but rather on hearsay ”

John Bassi, London UK

John Bassi, London UK

Here in the US, the protestors are a mix of aging baby boomers who are trying to relive their Vietnam youth protesting days and "anarchist" trust fund hippies who have no life experience. Just as in Vietnam, peace protests actually cost lives because they delay the inevitable. For these folks, we will need to wait until a nuclear, biological, etc bomb goes off in a major city.

Tony, Jersey City, USA

I took part in the great anti-nuclear rallies of the 1980s, condemning President Reagan as a 'warmonger'. And we were proved wrong - the precondition of peace was to stand resolutely against dictatorships, as the collapse of Communism later showed. Having learned this lesson, I shall certainly not be attending the anti-war rally on Saturday. The real campaigners for peace are President Bush and Tony Blair.

Oliver Kamm, UK

I have never marched before. But I think it's vital that the government sees the strength of feeling on this issue. I also think it important that they see it's

not just a rag tag army of anarchists and trouble-makers but "ordinary" people from all walks of society. And to that end it is essential to my mind that the rally is peaceful and as good-humoured as possible.

Neil Walker, UK

I will never forget the news footage showing the piles of dead Iraqis wiped out by a nerve gas attack from their own leader. A man that is prepared to slaughter his own people en mass in this way clearly cannot be trusted. I am amazed he has been given this long. The consequences of delaying any action further will be disastrous.

James, England

Sometimes war is necessary, but “ We protesters are not in this case. We protesters are not appeasers not appeasers; we just recognise that a war now means a century of conflict to come. “War is a necessary evil” says one contributor. No- Saddam is the necessary evil that we have to accept for now, because less people will die this way. Removal of sanctions is the first step to undermine his grip of power.

Robert, UK

Robert, UK

It's sad people express this ludicrous idea that a majority of the country has no clue to the Middle East's problems. Those going on the 15 February march are doing so because they have considered all the facts carefully. It seems that those who want war have forgotten we still live in a democracy. The majority of this country, when opposed to war should

be taken extremely seriously! Even our reactionary press is finding that 80% and more of us are against a pre-emptive strike against Iraq. This should be enough to show the government is wrong!

James, UK

Some people suggest the government should do what their population wish. Yet is it not the duty of the government to run the country as well as possible, and take unpopular decisions? When Peel revoked the Corn Laws in 1846 a majority of his supporters were against the move, yet in the long run this action has been credited for the prosperity of the subsequent decades. Similarly, the fact that many people are against a war does not make such a war wrong, nor does it indite the government for pursuing such a course of action.

Paul, United Kingdom

I will not be attending the march, not because I don't believe in the right of free speech, but because I believe that sometimes force is the only means available to

“ Think of the Iraqi people who do not have the freedom of speech ”

Fred Warren, UK

achieve freedom of expression. Think of the Iraqi people who do not have the freedom of speech, the Kurds who were gassed in the late 80s. If, by using force, we can achieve these freedoms, we will have done a good thing. Would the protestors gladly lay down their lives to achieve this? I think not.

Fred Warren, UK

My friends and I will attend the demo here for good reasons: this is not 1939; some politicians and

warmongers DO want a war, and DO profit from such actions; and the reason for the war cannot be counter-terrorism - as the DIS leaked a document to the BBC this week making that plain. Protesting against a war waged for no good reason, with the risk of many innocents being murdered, is not appeasement: it's humanity and it's decency.

Tom Clarke, Barcelona, Spain

If people strongly feel against the war, then all the more power to them for exercising their democratic right to protest.

However, I have absolutely no respect for any protestor who did not take the time to vote in the two previous elections here in the US (if they were eligible).

Voting against Bush and war hawks would have been more affective towards preventing a war in Iraq than holding signs and marching through Washington and other cities across the country.

Angelo Bonello, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

“ I have no respect for any protestor who did not take the time to vote

”

Angelo Bonello,
Philadelphia, USA

I'm interested in and concerned by the way pro-war people talk about "appeasement" and "1939." I do not believe that Saddam is in a position to become the next Hitler. Yes he is seeking dangerous weapons, but the inspectors can slow his efforts dramatically. Moreover, recall that in 1939 appeasement meant allowing Hitler to conquer many Eastern European nations. The peace movement is not going to continue (at anything near its current strength) if Saddam seizes Iran or Kuwait.

Furthermore, being opposed to war does not mean supporting Saddam. One can be anti-war and attend protests and the like and still be in favour of containing and controlling the threat posed by Saddam's regime. Remember that it was internal opposition and not the NATO bombing that brought change to Serbia.

Chris Segal, United States

I will demonstrate because I object bitterly to the prospect of a bombing campaign that will probably kill more people than the 20,000 who died of disease and starvation in Afghanistan in the aftermath of the destruction there. I do not believe, as some appear to, that eight pints of Anglo-Saxon blood is worth unlimited gallons of Third World blood. Aerial obliteration is a callous and cowardly act of racism.

D. Love, Oxford, UK

John Scott: "Protest marches are usually the last desperate gambit of groups who have lost the argument" Suffragette marchers, Jarrow marchers, black civil rights marchers - all lost the argument? Rights and freedoms we take for granted today are due to earlier protests. The right to question the power of oil companies and arms manufacturers (ie, the Bush administration) is the right we have to push for today.

Geoff, UK

“ The right to question the power of oil companies and arms manufacturers is the right we have to push for today. ”

Geoff, UK

Derek Johnson is already in the company of the appeasers. He is not merely appeasing, but

supporting the aggressor, George W. Bush. If in 1939 we had had weapons inspectors in Germany seeking out all weapons denied to German under the treaty of Versailles and destroying those found, would that have been appeasement? Of course, not. I have yet to hear of anyone who would support appeasing Saddam.

Ian Miller, UK

Widespread anti-war protests are likely to make war *more* likely. Why? Because they indicate division and uncertainty - which Saddam Hussein has been all too willing to exploit in the past. He is the problem and, unless he chooses exile, war is the only option to remove him. Leaving him to recover his military and build up his weapons programmes will condemn the Iraqi people to further suffering and the rest of the world to the increased dangers of biological warfare.

Mark Pavlou, United Kingdom

I have been spreading demonstration flyers for a month now and yes, of course, I'm going to the anti-war demonstration here in Helsinki, Finland. I'm coming with many friends some of whom are coming all the way from Tampere (central Finland). I feel that going is my obligation and responsibility as a citizen of Europe and the world.

Valteri Halme, Finland

Maybe the armchair generals, who are quite prepared (if not eager) to see men and women sent to their deaths for immoral reasons while they sit at home watching it on TV, could get involved in what

they claim to believe in and organise their own pro-war demo ? April 1 would probably be a good date.

John M, UK

Fortunately the march will achieve nothing since for once our leaders have a better grasp on the situation than the masses. Being anti war is easy but I am glad that in 1939 we did what was necessary. What will it take for us to realise that not all wars are avoidable? Is a future nuclear conflict between Israel and Iraq with millions killed preferable to the regrettable dead of thousands now?

Allan Mackenzie, Scotland

I will not be marching against this war, even though I marched in the USA against the Vietnam War thirty years ago. I will not be marching because I believe that the credible threat of force is the only thing that might persuade Iraq to back down, and that such marches make it hard for politicians in the West to take a strong stand and send a clear message. Without a credible threat of force, war becomes inevitable.

“ Without a credible threat of force, war becomes inevitable ”

Eric Lee, UK

Eric Lee, UK

I will be marching in Amsterdam on the 15th along with people in over 60 cities worldwide. I do not trust Sadam, but neither do I trust those who want to rush into war and try to convince us with out-of- date copied material and fabricated links. Sadam and Osama Bin Laden are not one and the same. We

know where Saddam is and he can be contained - so what about Bin Laden? Why cause so much suffering and instability - in the name of what might happen whilst the real organisers behind 9/11 are still free? Let the inspectors work, explore all alternatives and in the meantime let our voices be heard - I have to have hope.

Helen Miller, The Netherlands

If presidents Wilson and Roosevelt had listened to protesters and pacifists United State would have never entered WWI and WWII. After all, those weren't OUR wars!

Mirek Kondracki, USA

I have no argument with the innocent Iraqi people. I am not an appeaser but I do not believe that thousands of people should be killed in an attempt to rid the world of one man. His ideas will live on in Iraq and terrorism will be inflated and spread as a result of war. I think the Iraq people will resent the British and Americans for their actions not thank them. This is not Afghanistan. I am not convinced by George Bush. Tony Blair is all spin, spin, sound bites and spin. I will be proud to protest next week. I hope the whole country descends on London.

Graham, North Yorkshire, UK

If we had taken the advice of protestors of the Nato action in Kosovo, the genocide there would still be going on. Protestors scream and yell for human rights but only when they think countries they hate (like the US and the UK) are GOING to violate them. They couldn't care less about Saddam's human rights

record. Now that is hypocrisy at its finest!

Ron, South Hampton, UK

I'm going to any protests here in NYC for the same reason most people go to these things; to meet hot chicks.

Igor Cretu, USA!

When governments of nation states decide to engage in "pre-emptive war" (aggression) against the wishes of their own citizens, what other avenue beside protest in the streets is open to those citizens to prevent such misguided policies? Anyone who does not participate in the antiwar protests is, in effect, saying, "Go ahead; initiate aggressive war." I will participate in any antiwar protest demonstration in my area. I hope you will do the same.

JB, USA

Will I join a march whose objective is to keep a dangerous, genocidal dictator in power indefinitely? No, I won't be there.

Richard Evans, UK

I do protest, I will, I would be ashamed if I did not...Nobody believe, I hope, that this is a war for democracy? its a war for oil, Bush ego. Saddam was good friend with the USA, and France, he has not changed a bit...Bush has not gotten Bin Laden's head, he think Saddam's could replace it

Jean Charles Madre, France

All my family are opposed to the war, and my parents have threatened to attend the march. I say 'threatened' because however much I hate the war,

or more precisely George Bush, the thought of having to hang around with a bunch of hippies, lefties and pacifists in order to get my voice heard is something I simply will not do.

Edward Green, UK

Why is it that people will protest against their own western governments but do not travel to Iraq to protest against the real cause of this war - Saddam Hussein.

Paul Millar, UK

I see someone has used the term "war on Hussein" in their comment. You should understand that a war cannot be waged against a single person. An attack on Iraq would result in the deaths of many thousands of innocent civilian people. The motive for attacking is not one of 'freeing the Iraqi people' - if that was the case, then when are we going to free the people of Tibet? I will march, because I want to make myself heard as best I can, the government is not interested in representing my views, so I shall represent myself on this occasion. Unfortunately I do not have a seat in parliament, my letters and petitions have been ignored... taking to the street is my last option.

“ The government is not representing my views, so I shall represent myself on this occasion ”

Ben Whitham, UK

Ben Whitham, UK

People have very short memories. It's because the countries that now advocate peace (France, Russia, Germany) systematically undermined the weapon inspectors until inspections were abandoned in 1998

that we are in the situation we are in now. The inspections were undermined for cynical commercial gain. People who accuse the US of going to war for commercial reasons have it exactly back to front. Saddam started cooperating again because of the threat of war and is cooperating to the extent that the threat is credible. Peace protests actually increase the chance of war because they encourage Saddam to underestimate the seriousness of the US and the UK.

Chris, UK

I will be attending the demos. People who say appeasement doesn't work have a very poor and simplistic grasp of history - appeasement failed because Hitler would not be appeased. There is evidence that diplomacy will work with Saddam - weapons inspectors being in Iraq is a victory for diplomacy in itself.

Callum Dinnen, Glasgow, UK

We will see the usual suspects: students(a lot to learn about life), professional protesters(socialist worker placard carriers), third rate politicians, people with a vested interest. Hard working people like me will be at home charging their batteries for work so we can pay taxes to support the above.

Graham Beaumont, UK

I am going to the demo because it is important for the public to remember that despite what critics or the media say we do have power and if our leaders don't listen to us then they will be kicked out once the next election comes along.

Lizzie, Scotland

In England when we disagree with the government, we are free to assemble and protest. In Iraq that freedom does not exist. I hope that the peace protestors remember that. Saddam must be laughing that Bush and Blair permit it.

Guy Hammond, England

Saturday will be the first political rally I attend. While I would have supported the military overthrow of Saddam at the end of the Gulf War, there are many reasons why this is no longer appropriate and I believe that the UN is already critically damaged by the way the US 'buys' votes. If we can avoid an invasion of Iraq it will reaffirm the independence and legitimacy of the UN.

Chris, UK

I support demonstrations but I am not sure they will avert anything. Democracy that we claim to support and practice seems to be good only for our leaders' speeches. We are finding out that we, the USA, are an undemocratic nation. If we, the people counted, there would not be a war at all because the majority says no to war.

Sue McDowell, USA

I'm going a) Because I don't think a war is justified yet b) Because I want to see how the media portray the march afterwards. I have never been to something like this before, but I want to make it clear to Blair that he has got a lot of arguments to win before he throws us into a war without mandate.

Matt Davies, U.K.

Anti war protesting is fine. No one wants a war. I just hope that the protestors understand that there are real reasons this conflict is reaching a flash-point. The alternative to war with Iraq now might be thousands killed in a bio-chemical attack. Appeasement does not work.

Jason, USA

It will be something that Bush has to consider. The amount of people opposed to this war is growing and Bush can't ignore it if he intends to get re-elected. By 2004 this war is going to be Bush's achilles heal.

Scott, North Carolina, USA

I am going to join the mass demonstration to show that I believe in peaceful co-existence and to protest against war-mongers.

M N Khan, England

I will demonstrate against the war on February 15th. I will do so because I, in common with everybody I have spoken to about this, do not believe the tenuous evidence the US and UK are using to promote war. In contrast, it is easy to see the political and economic reasons the US has for going to war, which have nothing to do with weaponry or the welfare of the Iraqi people. A big demo may not force a change of policy on its own, but it will underline the political risk Tony Blair is taking in supporting this unjust war.

Rupert, UK

I am not going to an anti-war rally due to the fact

that such a course of action exposes the freedom-loving nations of the world to even more terror than was unleashed on September 11, 2001. The time for talk is over and the time for action is at hand.

Carlton Huffman, United States

I will be attending the rally, along with many of my friends and colleagues, most of whom have never protested before. Given the current government's utter disregard for democratic tradition, I suspect that the impact on policy will be very small, but then any number is infinitely greater than zero.

Linus Twizell, UK

“ I will be attending the rally, along with many of my friends and colleagues, most of whom have never protested before. ”

Linus Twizell, UK

Protest marches are usually the last desperate gambit of groups who have lost the argument or do not have the sophistication to argue the case formally in parliament or the courts. This war can only be stopped by the actions of one person, Saddam Hussein. People marching should reflect on their freedom to make this protest - something that Saddam would never let his own people do.

John Scott, UK

“ Protest marches are usually the last desperate gambit of groups who have lost the argument quote here ”

John Scott, UK

I am going to the march for the following reasons: 1. to show the world that we are against this unjust war. 2. to show our government that even though

they have the majority in parliament does not mean that they can represent the people on all the important issues.

Frank Nash, UK

Under no circumstances will I accompany rank appeasers. This war is I am afraid a necessary evil. It is time these protestors had the same realisation.

Derek Johnson, United Kingdom

I will be attending the anti-war rally next Saturday. The cause is just and good. What does worry me is if some people become violent and attack the demonstrators or police. Also, what about the likelihood of a terrorist attack against the rally?

Chris Kerr, London, UK

Have any of the anti-war protestors considered something crucial - that NOT going to war is a serious political decision with real consequences too. Personally, I haven't seen enough evidence to know for sure whether or not war is the best outcome. No-one WANTS war - the politicians who support it, let us not forget, and merely wish for a better outcome than failing to disarm Iraq.

Chris D, Oxford, UK

The anti-war demonstrators are naive and misguided. Appeasement did not work in 1939 and it will not work now. The only way to crush despotism is through conflict - the necessary means to an end. For many, this is not about war on Hussein, it is about venting their spleen against the United States.

Andrew, Yorkshire, UK

New Saturday I like thousands of other people will be going to the rally. We need to voice our objections to the government (Bush and Blair in particular) that a war under any circumstances is unacceptable. The amount of numbers will illustrate the amount of people who are actively against this barbaric means of achieving "peace".

Addil Ghafar, Swindon, UK

I would like to remind Addil Ghafar and others attending "appeasement marches", that in the 1930s public opinion also opposed "war under any circumstances" with Nazi Germany until it was forced upon them. Such Chamberlainesque comments, I fear, prove that we indeed have learnt nothing from history. Once again, the world has to look to the Churchillian leaders of America and Britain - as leaders of the free world - to ensure the liberties we are so clearly taking for granted, and help bring those freedoms to the Iraqi people and hopefully across the vastly tyrannical Middle East region.

Yoav Bezael, Israel

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