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## The First Hours of Online Coverage of "Operation Iraqi Freedom"

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### Abstract

President George W. Bush announced military action in Iraq on March 19, 2003, at 10:19 p.m. EST. This chapter analyzes the coverage of online news sites from around the world in response to this attack. It focuses on the immediate coverage of the event by looking at how the Iraq War was framed on the home pages of leading international news Web sites.

While there were some differences in the framing of the event, the majority of the coverage focused on the military conflict frame. However, U.S. online news sites did not incorporate prognostic and responsibility issues as often as their international counterparts. Journalists around the world abstained from using value-laden terms such as "aggression" or "invasion" but often incorporated more subtle cues in their visuals and choice of themes.

### Comments

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In the first 20 days of Operation Iraqi Freedom, airmen: • Conducted more than 1,500 GPS satellite uploads to provide enhanced GPS accuracies less than four meters spherical error probable (a 3-dimensional measure of accuracy) for coalition operations throughout the theater. Quick Facts current as of 04/08/03 Source: Defense Official. Coalition intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets are providing persistent coverage of the battlefield and relaying data to controllers and strike forces in near real time. Quick Facts current as of 04/05/03 Source: Defense Official. Air component sorties • About 25,000 sorties have been flown since March 19. Operation Iraqi Freedom Introduction. On 29 January 2002, in his first State of the Union address, President George W. Bush named 3 countries as the "Axis of Evil." One of these nations was Iraq. On 10 October 2002, the US Congress adopted a joint resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq. On 17 March 2003, in an address to the United States gives Saddam Hussein and his regime 48 hours to leave Iraq. Military operations against Iraq, conducted by the United States and an allied Coalition, began at around 9:30 PM EST on 19 March 2003. This operation was known in the United Operation Iraqi Freedom: "Two hours after a deadline for Saddam Hussein and his two sons expired George W. Bush opened the war on Iraq with a cruise missile strike on a home in Baghdad where Saddam was believed to have been along with one or more of his sons. The attack began shortly after 6:00 am on March 20, 2003 and was followed up with a limited invasion by Army and Navy forces moving into Iraq from Kuwait. These initial strikes were followed up by a heavy aerial bombardment and full invasion two