

Welcome to The America's Wars Walkway Digital Tour

A Walkway History of America's Wars

Please use your arrow keys
To advance to the next slide

A photograph of the Berlin Veterans Memorial Park. In the center, five tall flagpoles hold the United States flag and four other flags. In the foreground, a paved walkway leads towards the flags, flanked by stone markers for the American Legion Post 65 and Post 10732. Benches and trees are visible in the background.

BERLIN VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK VETERANS WAY, BERLIN, CT

AMERICA'S WARS WALKWAY

A WALKWAY HISTORY OF
AMERICA'S WARS

VETERANS MEMORIAL WALKWAY A HISTORY OF AMERICA'S WARS



AMERICA'S WARS WALKWAY

DEDICATED 11 NOVEMBER 2015

BERLIN VETERANS COMMISSION

CONCEIVED AND DESIGNED BY
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A WALKWAY HISTORY OF AMERICA'S WARS



American Revolution: 1775 ~ 1783



War of 1812: 1812 ~ 1815



Mexican-American War: 1846 ~ 1848



Civil War: 1861 ~ 1865



Spanish-American War: 1898 ~ 1902



World War I: 1917 ~ 1918

Throughout the 400-year history of the United States, Americans have fought on battlefields both near and far, in clashes both large and small, alone and with allies at their sides. From the American Revolution of the late 18th century to the Iraq War in the early 21st, these conflicts have shaped the country's policies, influenced its culture, defined its borders and cost thousands of lives. Learn the facts about these wars. Read, Honor, and Remember all those who have fought and died.



World War II: 1941 ~ 1945



Korean War: 1950 ~ 1953



Vietnam War: 1956 ~ 1975



Persian War: 1990 ~ 1991



War in Afghanistan: 2001 ~ 2014



Iraq War: 2003 ~ 2011

A WALKWAY HISTORY OF AMERICA'S WARS



American Revolution: 1775 ~ 1783



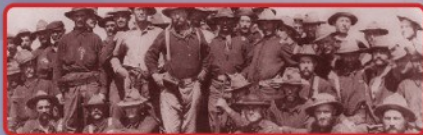
War of 1812: 1812 ~ 1815



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World War II: 1941 ~ 1945



Korean War: 1950 ~ 1953



Vietnam War: 1956 ~ 1975



Persian War: 1990 ~ 1991



War in Afghanistan: 2001 ~ 2014



Iraq War: 2003 ~ 2011

AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Dates: 1775-1783

Troops: 217,000

American Deaths: 4,435 (approx.)

Took Place: Eastern seaboard of North America

How It Ended: The Treaty of Paris was signed on Sept. 3, 1783

The American Revolution (1775-83) is also known as the American Revolutionary War and the U.S. War of Independence. The conflict arose from growing tensions between residents of Great Britain's 13 North American colonies and the colonial government, which represented the British crown. Skirmishes between British troops and colonial militiamen in Lexington and Concord in April 1775 kicked off the armed conflict, and by the following summer, the rebels were waging a full-scale war for their independence. France entered the American Revolution on the side of the colonists in 1778, turning what had essentially been a civil war into an international conflict. After French assistance helped the Continental Army force the British surrender at Yorktown, Virginia, in 1781, the Americans had effectively won their independence, though fighting would not formally end until 1783.



The Treaty of Paris of 1783, negotiated between the United States and Great Britain, ended the revolutionary war and recognized American independence. The Continental Congress named a five-member commission to negotiate a treaty—John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, John Jay, Thomas Jefferson, and Henry Laurens. Laurens, however, was captured by a British warship and held in the Tower of London until the end of the war, and Jefferson did not leave the United States in time to take part in the negotiations. Thus, they were conducted by Adams, Franklin, and Jay.

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WAR OF 1812

Dates: 1812-1815

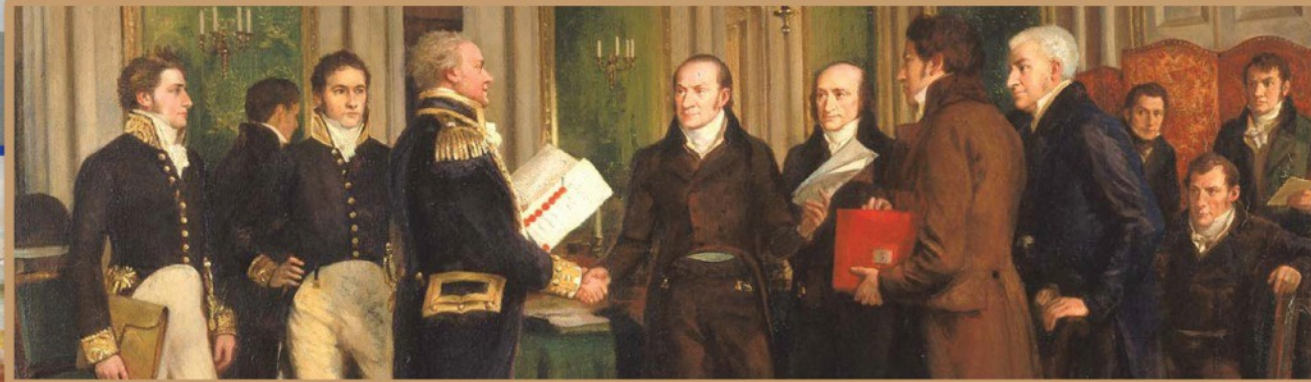
Troops: 286,730

American Deaths: 2,260 (approx.)

Took Place: Canada, Eastern seaboard of the United States, Great Lakes & Lake Champlain

How It Ended: The Treaty of Ghent was signed on Dec. 24, 1814.

In the War of 1812, the United States took on the greatest naval power in the world, Great Britain, in a conflict that would have an immense impact on the young country's future. Causes of the war included British attempts to restrict U.S. trade, the Royal Navy's impressment of American seamen and America's desire to expand its territory. The United States suffered many costly defeats at the hands of British, Canadian and Native American troops over the course of the War of 1812, including the capture and burning of the nation's capital, Washington, D.C., in August 1814. Nonetheless, American troops were able to repulse British invasions in New York, Baltimore and New Orleans, boosting national confidence and fostering a new spirit of patriotism. The ratification of the Treaty of Ghent on February 17, 1815, ended the war but left many of the most contentious questions unresolved. Nonetheless, many in the United States celebrated the War of 1812 as a "second war of independence," beginning an era of partisan agreement and national pride.



On December 24, 1814, The Treaty of Ghent was signed by British and American representatives at Ghent, Belgium, ending the War of 1812. By terms of the treaty, all conquered territory was to be returned, and commissions were planned to settle the boundary of the United States and Canada. Unaware of the treaty, Gen. Andrew Jackson engaged and crushed the British at the Battle of New Orleans on January 8, 1815.



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MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR



Dates: 1846-1848

Troops: 78,718

American Deaths: 13,283 (approx.)

Took Place: Mexico & Southwestern United States, including modern-day Texas, California & New Mexico

How It Ended: The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed on Feb. 2 1848.

Estados Unidos
MEXICANOS
Arreglado a la distribución
en diversos decretos ha hecho del territorio el
CONGRESO GENERAL MEJICANO
Paris, 1837
Publicado por...



The Mexican-American War (1846-1848) marked the first U.S. armed conflict chiefly fought on foreign soil. It pitted a politically divided and militarily unprepared Mexico against the expansionist-minded administration of U.S. President James K. Polk, who believed the United States had a "manifest destiny" to spread across the continent to the Pacific Ocean. A border skirmish along the Rio Grande started off the fighting and was followed by a series of U.S. victories. When the dust cleared, Mexico had lost about one-third of its territory, including nearly all of present-day California, Utah, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, signed on February 2, 1848, ended the Mexican-American War in favor of the United States. The war had begun almost two years earlier, in May 1846, over a territorial dispute involving Texas. The treaty added an additional 525,000 square miles to United States territory, including the land that makes up all or parts of present-day Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. Mexico also gave up all claims to Texas and recognized the Rio Grande as America's southern boundary.

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CIVIL WAR



Dates: 1861-1865

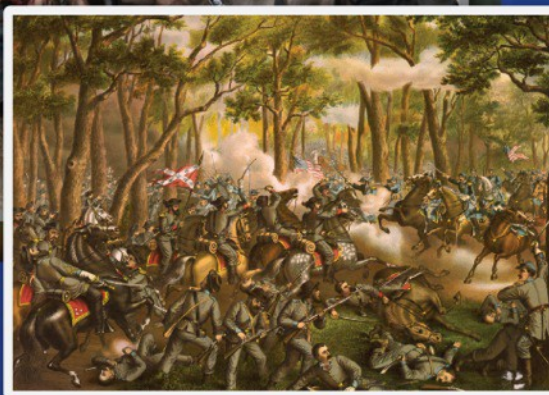
Troops: 3,263,363

American Deaths: 529,332 (approx.)

Took Place: Primarily in the Eastern half of the U.S. (east of the Mississippi River).

How It Ended: Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant at the small settlement of Appomattox Court House in Southwestern Virginia on April 9, 1865.

In the spring of 1861, decades of simmering tensions between the northern and southern United States over issues including states' rights versus federal authority, westward expansion and slavery exploded into the American Civil War (1861-1865). The election of the anti-slavery Republican Abraham Lincoln as president in 1860 caused seven southern states to secede from the Union to form the Confederate States of America; four more joined them after the first shots of the Civil War were fired. Four years of brutal conflict were marked by historic battles at Bull Run (Manassas), Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg and Vicksburg, among others. The War Between the States, as the Civil War was also known, pitted neighbor against neighbor and in some cases, brother against brother. By the time it ended in Confederate surrender in 1865, the Civil War proved to be the costliest war ever fought on American soil, with some 620,000 of 2.4 million soldiers killed, millions more injured and the population and territory of the South devastated.



On April 9, 1865, Confederate General Robert E. Lee (1807-70) surrendered his approximately 28,000 troops to Union General Ulysses S. Grant (1822-85) in the front parlor of Wilmer McLean's home in Appomattox Court House, Virginia, effectively ending the American Civil War (1861-65). Days earlier, Lee had abandoned the Confederate capital of Richmond and city of Petersburg, hoping to escape with the remnants of his Army of Northern Virginia, meet up with additional Confederate forces in North Carolina and resume fighting. When Union forces cut off his final retreat, Lee was forced to surrender, finally ending four years of bloody sectional conflict.

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SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Dates: 1898-1902 **Troops:** 306,760 **American Deaths:** 385 (approx.)

Took Place: Mainly in the Spanish possessions of Cuba and the Philippines

How It Ended: The Treaty of Paris was signed on Dec. 10, 1898.

The Spanish-American War was a conflict in 1898, from April 25 – Aug. 12, between Spain and the United States, the result of American intervention in the Cuban War of Independence. American attacks on Spain's Pacific possessions led to involvement in the Philippine Revolution and ultimately to the Filipino-American War. In 1902 the United States officially declared an end to this conflict.

The war originated in the Cuban struggle for independence from Spain, which began in February 1895. Spain's brutally repressive measures to halt the rebellion were graphically portrayed for the U.S. public by several sensational newspapers, and American sympathy for the rebels rose. The growing popular demand for U.S. intervention became an insistent chorus after the unexplained sinking in Havana harbor of the battleship USS Maine, which had been sent to protect U.S. citizens and property after anti-Spanish rioting in Havana. Spain announced an armistice on April 9. The United States negotiated Spain's surrender of Manila in August, as the war ended. But, instead of liberating the Philippines from Spanish domination, the United States chose to annex the islands and begin building an American empire.



The Treaty of Paris (signed Dec. 10, 1898), Spain renounced all claim to Cuba, ceded Guam and Puerto Rico to the United States and transferred sovereignty over the Philippines to the United States for \$20,000,000. But many Americans strongly opposed this new trend of imperialism, as did the Philippine revolutionary Emilio

Aguinaldo. He turned from fighting Spain to resisting American domination in the Filipino-American War. Defeating Aguinaldo's guerrillas took longer than defeating the Spanish. The United States combined tactics of pacification and social improvement with brutal military strikes. Aguinaldo was captured in 1901, and then in 1902 President Roosevelt officially declared an end to the conflict.

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WORLD WAR I

Dates: 1917-1918

Troops: 4,734,991

American Deaths: 116,516 (approx.)

Took Place: The Atlantic Ocean and Europe

How It Ended: Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919.



World War One (1914-1918)-Known at the time as “The Great War,” and as “The World War,” this conflict was the greatest military battle in history up to that time.

The United States entered the war in 1917. The Americans entered a war that was deadlocked. Opposing armies were dug in, facing each other in trenches that ran nearly 500 miles across northern France—the notorious western front. Almost three years of horrific fighting resulted in huge losses, but no discernable advantage for either side. Americans reluctantly entered Europe’s “Great War” and tipped the balance to Allied victory. In part the nation was responding to threats to its own economic and diplomatic interests. But it also wanted, in the words of President Woodrow Wilson, to “make the world safe for democracy.” The United States emerged from the war a significant, but reluctant, world power.

American involvement in the war was decisive. Within eighteen months, the sheer number of American “doughboys” added to the lines ended more than three years of stalemate. Germany agreed to an armistice on November 11, 1918. The Versailles Treaty was signed on June 28, 1919.



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WORLD WAR II

Dates: 1941-1945

Troops: 16,112,566

American Deaths: 405,399 (approx.)

Took Place: Europe, North Africa, Asia, Australia, and Pacific islands including Hawaii, Atlantic and Pacific Oceans

How It Ended: Japan was the last Axis power to surrender on August 15, 1945, after the U.S. bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



The instability created in Europe by the First World War (1914-18) set the stage for another international conflict—World War II—which broke out two decades later and would prove even more devastating. Rising to power in an economically and politically unstable Germany, Adolf Hitler and his National Socialist (Nazi Party) rearmed the nation and signed strategic treaties with Italy and Japan to further his ambitions of world domination. Hitler's invasion of Poland in September 1939 drove Great Britain and France to declare war on Germany, and World War II had begun.

Americans joined the Allies to defeat Axis militarism and nationalist expansion. After Japanese air forces attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the United States entered a global war that had been raging for nearly two years. On December 8, President Franklin Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan. Congress did so, and the president signed the declaration of war the same day. On December 11, Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy declared war on the United States.

The Allies celebrated the collapse of Germany and victory in Europe on V-E day, May 8, 1945. Across Britain, Europe, and the United States, jubilant crowds took to the streets, their elation—and relief—tempered by the knowledge that war still raged in the Pacific. But the celebrating was unrestrained on August 15, 1945, when Japan admitted defeat after the Atomic Bomb was dropped on Hiroshima (Aug. 6) and Nagasaki (Aug. 9). Surrender documents were signed on September 2 in a ceremony aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.



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KOREAN WAR

Dates: 1950-1953
Troops: 5,720,000
American Deaths: 36,576 (approx.)
Took Place: North and South Korea
How It Ended: The war reached a stalemate in June 1951.
An armistice was finally reached on July 27, 1953.



The Korean War was the first major military conflict of the Cold War between the Western powers and the Communist nations in the years following World War Two.

On June 25, 1950, the Korean War began when some 75,000 soldiers from the North Korean People's Army poured across the 38th parallel, the boundary between the Soviet-backed Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the north and the pro-Western Republic of Korea to the south. This invasion was the first military action of the Cold War. By July, American troops had entered the war on South Korea's behalf. As far as American officials were concerned, it was a war against the forces of international communism itself. After some early back-and-forth across the 38th parallel, the fighting stalled and casualties mounted with nothing to show for them.

Meanwhile, American officials worked anxiously to fashion some sort of armistice with the North Koreans. The alternative, they feared, would be a wider war with Russia and China—or even, as some warned, World War III. Finally, in July 1953, the Korean War came to an end. In all, some 5 million soldiers and civilians lost their lives during the war. The Korean peninsula is still divided today.

The Korean War reached a stalemate. In July 1951, President Truman and his new military commanders started peace talks at Panmunjom. Still, the fighting continued along the 38th parallel as negotiations stalled. Both sides were willing to accept a ceasefire that maintained the 38th parallel boundary, but they could not agree on whether prisoners of war should be forcibly “repatriated.” (The Chinese and the North Koreans said yes; the United States said no.) Finally, after more than two years of negotiations, the adversaries signed an armistice on July 27, 1953. The agreement allowed the POWs to stay where they liked; drew a new boundary near the 38th parallel that gave South Korea an extra 1,500 square miles of territory; and created a 2-mile-wide “demilitarized zone” that still exists today.

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RESTRICTED
MONSANTO
CANCER

VIETNAM WAR



At a news conference on December 8, 1969, President Richard Nixon said that the Vietnam War is coming to a "conclusion as a result of the plan we have instituted." As Nixon was holding his press conference, troops from the U.S. 25th Infantry Division (less the Second Brigade) began departing from Vietnam. Although Nixon did continue to decrease American troop strength in South Vietnam, the fighting continued. In 1972, the North Vietnamese launched a massive invasion of South Vietnam. The South Vietnamese forces reeled under the attack, but eventually prevailed with the help of U.S. airpower. After extensive negotiations and the bombing of North Vietnam in December 1972, the Paris Peace Accords were signed in January 1973. Under the provisions of the Accords, U.S. forces were completely withdrawn. Unfortunately, this did not end the war for the Vietnamese and the fighting continued until April 1975 when Saigon fell to the communists.

Dates: 1956-1975

Troops: 9,200,000; in theater: 3,403,000

American Deaths: 58,200 (approx.)

Took Place: Southeast Asia

How It Ended: The U.S. withdrew after a ceasefire in 1973.

North Vietnam proved victorious with the Fall of Saigon in April 1975.

The Vietnam War was a long, costly-armed conflict that pitted the communist regime of North Vietnam and its southern allies, known as the Viet Cong, against South Vietnam and its principal ally, the United States. The war began in 1954 and the United States entered the war in 1956 (though conflict in the region stretched back to the mid-1940s), after the rise to power of Ho Chi Minh and his communist Viet Minh party in North Vietnam, and continued against the backdrop of an intense Cold War between two global superpowers: the United States and the Soviet Union. More than 3 million people (including 58,000 Americans) were killed in the Vietnam War; more than half were Vietnamese civilians. By 1969, at the peak of U.S. involvement in the war, more than 500,000 U.S. military personnel were involved in

the Vietnam conflict. Growing opposition to the war in the United States led to bitter divisions among Americans, both before and after President Richard Nixon ordered the withdrawal of U.S. forces in 1973.

In 1975, communist forces seized control of Saigon, ending the Vietnam War, and the country was unified as the Socialist Republic of Vietnam the following year.



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PERSIAN GULF WAR

Dates: August 1990 - April 1991

Troops: 2,225,000

American Deaths: 148 (approx.)

Took Place: Iraq and Kuwait

How It Ended: After a four-day ground war, an American-led coalition declared victory. A cease-fire agreement was signed on April 9, 1991.

Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein ordered the invasion and occupation of neighboring Kuwait in early August 1990. Alarmed by these actions, fellow Arab powers such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt called on the United States and other Western nations to intervene. Hussein defied United Nations Security Council demands to withdraw from Kuwait by mid-January 1991, and the Persian Gulf War began with a massive U.S.-led air offensive known as Operation Desert Storm. After 42 days of relentless attacks by the allied coalition in the air and on the ground, U.S. President George H.W. Bush declared a cease-fire on February 28, 1991; by that time, most Iraqi forces in Kuwait had either surrendered or fled. On April 6, 1991, Iraq accepts the terms of a cease-fire agreement, and on April 11, 1991, the United Nations declares an end to the war.

Although the war was a decisive military victory for the coalition, Kuwait and Iraq suffered enormous property damage, and Saddam Hussein was not removed from power. In fact, Hussein was free to turn his attention to suppressing internal Shiite and Kurd revolts, which the U.S.-led coalition did not support, in part because of concerns over the possible breakup of Iraq if the revolts were successful. Coalition peace terms were agreed to by Iraq, but every effort was made by the Iraqis to frustrate implementation of the terms, particularly UN weapons inspections.

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WAR IN AFGHANISTAN



War in Afghanistan - "Operation Enduring Freedom"

Dates: October 2001 - December 2014

Troops: 90,000 **American Deaths:** 2,246

Took Place: Afghanistan

The War in Afghanistan is the first major conflict of the 21st Century. At 8:46 a.m. on September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked and crashed a passenger jet into the north tower of New York City's World Trade Center. As live television coverage began, Americans watched in horror as a second plane slammed into the south tower at 9:03 a.m. Thirty-five minutes later, a third airliner dove into the Pentagon right outside the capital. A fourth jet, bound for Washington, D.C., crashed in Pennsylvania, its hijackers thwarted by passengers. The nation reeled, but resolved to fight back. The war began on October 7, 2001 in response to the terrorist attacks on the United States.

The United States launched its war against terrorism in Afghanistan, "Operation Enduring Freedom." Allied forces unleashed a torrent of precision-guided bombs and sea-launched cruise missiles against targets in Afghanistan, directing air support with lasers and Global Positioning System devices. Relying on this precision weaponry and several hundred-ground troops, the United States toppled the Taliban and al Qaeda in Afghanistan. While Taliban and al Qaeda strongholds were quickly destroyed, Osama bin Laden and other highly sought leaders escaped.



In August 2010, the CIA and other intelligence officials traced bin Laden to a compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. On May 2, 2011 (May 1 in the United States), a team of Navy SEALs burst into the compound. They found the al-Qaida leader and shot him in the head and chest, killing him instantly.

On Dec. 28, 2014, U.S. Troops and their Nato allies in Afghanistan have formally ended what became America's longest war, furling their flag 13 years after a 2001 invasion to topple the country's Taliban regime in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

In a symbolic ceremony meant to mark the transition in the role of the remaining troops from combat to support, the commander of the International Security Assistance Force, put away the green-and-white ISAF flag and unfurled the flag of "Resolute Support".



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IRAQ WAR

(Operation Iraqi Freedom / Operation New Dawn)

Dates: March 19, 2003 – Dec. 18, 2011

American Deaths: 3,529 (approx.)

Took Place: Iraq

Troops: 171,000



In 2003, America's role as sole superpower was once again tested—in Iraq, the heart of the Middle East. The United States, Great Britain, and other coalition forces attacked and overthrew Saddam Hussein's brutal regime in Iraq.

Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) was launched on March 19, 2003. The immediate goal, as stated by the Bush Administration, was to remove the regime, including destroying its ability to use weapons of mass destruction or to make them available to terrorists. The broad, longer-term objective included helping Iraqis build "a new Iraq that is prosperous and free. Over time, the focus of OIF has shifted from regime removal to the more open-ended mission

of helping an emerging new Iraqi leadership improve security, establish a system of governance, and foster economic development. With that shift in focus, the character of the war has evolved from major combat operations to a multifaceted counter-insurgency and reconstruction effort.

The transition to Operation New Dawn on Sept. 1, 2010, marked the official end to Operation Iraqi Freedom and combat operations by United States forces in Iraq. During Operation New Dawn, the remaining 50,000 U.S. service members serving in Iraq will conduct stability operations, focusing on advising, assisting and training Iraqi Security Forces. The U.S. completed

its withdrawal of military personnel on December 18, 2011, during the ninth year of the war. Throughout the armed conflict, the United States never formally declared war on Iraq, making the war a military action.

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IRAQ WAR

(Operation Iraqi Freedom / Operation New Dawn)

March 19, 2003 – Dec. 18, 2011

Deaths: 117,000

Wounded: 3,500 (approx.)

Cost: \$175 billion



In 2003, America's end-of-war agreement was once again tested. In 2003, the invasion of Iraq began. The United States, with a coalition of 48 other nations, invaded Iraq and overthrew Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq.

Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) was launched on March 19, 2003. The immediate goal, as stated by the Bush Administration, was to remove the regime, including eliminating its ability to use weapons of mass destruction or its ability to develop such weapons. The long-term goal was to establish a stable, democratic government in Iraq that is peaceful and free. Over time, the focus of OIF has shifted from regime removal to the more open-ended mission

of helping an emerging new Iraq develop a secure, stable, and democratic society, and to ensure the security of the region. With time and effort, the character of the mission has evolved from regime removal to a more open-ended mission of reconstruction and reconstruction efforts.

The transition to Operation New Dawn on Sept. 1, 2010, marked the official end of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the start of Operation New Dawn. The mission of Operation New Dawn is to ensure the security of the region and to ensure the security of the region. The mission of Operation New Dawn is to ensure the security of the region and to ensure the security of the region.

On December 18, 2011, the United States formally declared war on Iraq, marking the start of a military action.



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This is the end
of the Digital Tour.

Please come and bring your family
to Berlin, CT to see and enjoy the

America's Wars Walkway

And the

Berlin Veterans Memorial Park
Veterans Way, Berlin, CT