



▶ 您现在的位置: 中国国际关系研究网 >> 综合研究 >> 国际评论 >> 文章正文

 用户登录  新用户注册

Bush's Mission Impossible

作者: James F... 文章来源: Foreign Affairs 更新时间: 2007-1-13

Despite growing opposition in Congress from both Democrats and Republicans, President Bush is calling for more troops to combat insurgents and more dollars to employ Iraqis in that violence-torn land. But Bush faces huge obstacles to success. In Congress, critics are scrambling to see what limits can be put on the fresh resources and the time allowed for them to work. As for the public, opinion polls show that a large majority of Americans doubt the tide can be turned or that U.S. security requires it.

There are three possible outcomes. Against all odds, the escalation could tame the insurgency enough to allow political and economic developments to stabilize Iraq. Or the surge could prove to be the last, unsuccessful effort before withdrawal of most U.S. troops, thus consigning the fate of Iraq to the Iraqis and their nervous neighbors. Or the Bush administration could struggle on inconclusively and leave the mess to the winner of the 2008 U.S. presidential election.

For several reasons, a pessimistic outcome is likely. The Bush plan cannot work as long as Iraq's Maliki government refuses to suppress Shia militias, not just Sunni ones, or make the political and economic compromises sought by moderate Sunnis. Prime Minister Maliki has pledged to cooperate with the Bush plan but his past behavior strongly suggests he is unable or unwilling to provide more than minimal help. He has not acted as a unity leader but rather as a Shia advocate, with questionable ties to Iran, and has given scant cause for Sunnis to trust him.

A second reason for scepticism is that the additional troops sought by Bush are nowhere near enough to pacify Baghdad in the opinion of counterinsurgency experts. And lastly, angry and disillusioned Iraqi factions are swelling the ranks of the insurgency. For their part, the insurgents have increased the effectiveness of their tactics and demonstrated an ability to wait out counter attacks, only to reappear when the coast is clear. Bush's new plan envisions a significantly diminished role for U.S. troops by late fall. Based on past performance, it is doubtful that the Iraqi army will be capable by then of providing adequate security.

Unless conditions in Iraq noticeably improve, Bush will lose his remaining leverage and will finish out his presidential term isolated and marginalized. As the 2008 elections draw near, division will grow sharper within Republican ranks between supporters and doubters of escalation. And Democratic presidential candidates will feel heat from the party's base to embrace a disengagement timetable.

Within Iraq, the Bush initiative may curtail some sectarian violence but only for awhile. The most realistic outlook is for civil strife between Shias and Sunnis to rage for a number of years until there is a clear winner, a compromise brought on by exhaustion or a break up of the country. Among Iraq's neighbors there is growing alarm over the potential for region-wide disruption. The Sunni states of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the Gulf States worry most about Iran's drive to develop nuclear weapons capabilities, its fund

ing of radical groups and its ambitions to dominate the region. In their eyes, Iran benefited the most from the war in Iraq and the United States suffered the greatest loss in power and influence. With Iraq in long term turmoil, the United States must work to contain the chaotic forces threatening stability throughout this oil-rich region. An essential ingredient will be an invigorated diplomacy, starting with renewed mediation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Security assistance, such as missile defenses for the Gulf states, is also a priority.

The most troubling problem is Iran's unabated push to arm itself with the capability of creating nuclear weapons at the same time that it is developing long range missiles. Given that Iran is a radical, Shia theocracy intent on supporting like-minded terrorist organizations, alarm bells are ringing in the neighborhood. The United States and Israel are insisting, so far without success, that Iran must be stopped from achieving the wherewithal to make nuclear weapons. And for their part, Egypt and Saudi Arabia are contemplating nuclear programs of their own in response to the Iranian threat. Clearly, the debacle in Iraq has undermined U.S.-led efforts to contain Iran's nuclear ambitions and to prevent destabilization of the region. In the year ahead, no more important crisis faces the United States.

声明: 1. 本网站为纯公益性学术网站, 无任何商业目的。因部分文章来源于网络, 如有侵权请来邮或来电告知, 本站将立即改正。
2. 刊载此文并不代表本网站同意其观点, 仅为提供更多信息, 以作参考。

文章录入: sinoir 责任编辑: sinoir

- 上一篇文章: “9•11”以来的国际变局
- 下一篇文章: 日本政治地位为何不如德国

[【发表评论】](#) [【加入收藏】](#) [【告诉好友】](#) [【打印此文】](#) [【关闭窗口】](#)

 网友评论: (只显示最新10条。评论内容只代表网友观点, 与本站立场无关!)

[| 设为首页](#) | [| 加入收藏](#) | [| 联系站长](#) | [| 友情链接](#) | [| 版权申明](#) | [| 管理登录](#) | 