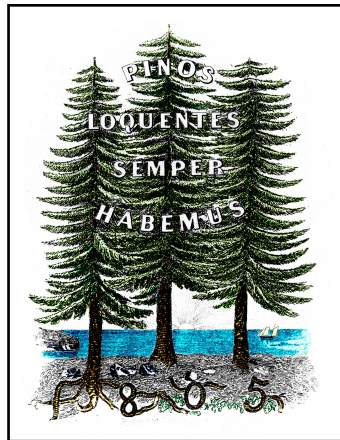


CHRONICLE

Resolution

The War in Iraq is a failure



SIGNIFICANT THEMES

- ⊙ Moral Foundations of Iraq War
- ⊙ American Exceptionalism
- ⊙ The Value of Liberalism

Affirmative

Mr. Andrew Edwards '09, delivering the affirmative address, began by detailing the events leading up to the Iraq War to lay a foundation for his arguments. He then asserted that the War was fundamentally flawed because of the false reasons for its commencement, and that troop involvement in Iraq has cost Afganistan's security, a supposed priority in the "War on Terror." Additionally, Mr. Edwards noted the impact of the large tally of casualties and the anti-U.S. sentiment garnered by our unilateralism and wartime mistakes.

Negative

Mr. John Cunningham '10, presenting the negative opinion, acknowledged from the outset the mistake of the War's origin, but asserted that the "second stage," one of nation-building and growth, deserved praise and support. Mr. Cunningham then provided the members with several fact sheets and employed the data therein to support his assertions that the U.S. has not failed to advance American interests in Iraq and that the War has not directly endangered the U.S. on its own soil, among other assertions.

THE SOCIETY DEBATE

Before the first volleys of this contentious debate were fired, Mr. Benjamin Stern '09 prefaced by imploring the assembled members to approach the resolution with maturity, and to transcend petty partisan scuffling to reach the roots of the issues concerning the War in Iraq. With this preface complete, the orators spoke and debate began.

For the majority of the first half of the session, discussion focused primarily on the good and the bad of U.S. strategic decisions in Iraq and other conflict zones. Eventually, President Mr. Ross Jacobs '10 attempted with some success to steer discourse toward the "deep moral question" of whether the War was fundamentally desirable or not. Citing David Brooks's concept of a "Policy of

National Greatness," he asked, "What does America do after liberty?" and "Is the Iraq War a struggle necessary to uplift Americans?"

From here, debate turned toward the concept of "American Exceptionalism" with some extolling America's triumphant ability to spread liberal democracy in undemocratic parts of the world and others questioning whether such a strategy would indeed prove desirable. In the end, discussion expanded to address the broad theoretical topic of the benefits and failures of western "liberalism" before coming to a late close with those opposed to the resolution, "*The War in Iraq is a Failure*" defeating it by a slim margin: 8-7. As usual, following formal debate, discourse continued late into the evening.

