

# Bush signs aid bill for Middle East

Some critics lambasted the plan, saying a clear-cut policy is necessary for U.S. aid efforts to be successful

By David Jackson  
The Dallas Morning News (KRT)

WASHINGTON — Facing political fire over the rising costs of war — in lives and dollars — President Bush argued Thursday that forging democracy in Iraq will build freedom throughout the Arab world.

"As long as the Middle East remains a place where freedom does not flourish," Bush said, "it will remain a place of stagnation, resentment and violence ready for export." Bush delivered a major speech two hours before signing a new \$87.5 billion spending plan for Iraq and Afghanistan, money that critics said symbolizes a failure of planning by the Bush administration.

Those critics, including some Democratic presidential candidates, also said Bush undermined hopes for Middle East stability with his preemptive invasion of Iraq, a war that has triggered terrorist reprisals against American troops.

"We saw chaos, we lost the trust of the Iraqi people, and the enemy was emboldened," said former Gen. Wesley Clark during a campaign speech in Orangeburg, S.C., on Thursday.

Foreign policy analysts said presidents have long sought more democracy in the Middle East but noted that Bush did not spell out exactly how he could be more successful, even in the test case of Iraq.

"He has committed himself to staying a very long time — engaged in nation building — in Iraq," said James M. Lindsay, co-author of "America Unbound: The Bush Revolution In Foreign Policy."

Rachel Bronson, director of Middle East Studies with the Council on Foreign Relations, called the speech "sort of windy — not much there."

"What we really need from the president is a sense, concretely, of where we're going," Bronson said.

During the bill-signing ceremony at the White House, Bush noted that nearly three-fourths of the budget plan is for military operations, with \$20 billion earmarked for reconstruction projects in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The resources we commit today will further advance the cause of free-

dom," Bush said, "thereby serving the cause of peace and enhancing the security of the American people."

The administration also announced plans to send 85,000 new troops to Iraq early next year to relieve those completing one-year terms.

In his earlier speech to the National Endowment For Democracy, a non-profit group created in 1983 to strengthen democratic institutions across the world, Bush said the Middle East "must be a focus of American policy for decades to come."

Likening the battle to a Cold War-type struggle between tyranny and liberty, Bush said a free Iraq would be "a watershed event in the global democratic revolution."

Failure in Iraq spells success for terrorism across the world, Bush said, while building democracy will pressure neighboring states whose authoritarian practices have been tolerated too long.

"Iraqi democracy will succeed, and that success will send forth the news from Damascus to Tehran that freedom can be the future of every nation," Bush said.

Some analysts cited polls taken in the Middle East reflecting disdain for the Bush administration. Arabs in the Middle East and the United States have criticized the administration for spending too much time on Iraq and not nearly enough on the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

"Good speeches do not make policy," said James Zogby, president of the Washington-based Arab American Institute. "They (Bush administration officials) have fired blanks too many times and are losing credibility."

During his speech, Bush criticized those who argue that democracy cannot take root in Islamic countries, saying the same thing was once said about Japan, Germany, and India.

"Sixty years of Western nations excusing and accommodating the lack of freedom in the Middle East did nothing to make us safe," Bush said. "Because in the long run, stability cannot be purchased at the expense of liberty."

Critics said the size of the new \$87.5 billion budget for Iraq and Afghanistan vividly illustrates how the Bush administration misled the nation about the costs and difficulties of forcibly removing Saddam Hussein.

(c) 2003, The Dallas Morning News. Distributed by Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services.

**Peabody's**  
Friday Night & Saturday Night  
Local DJ Music  
**NO COVER**

**\$5 off ANYTHING**  
Duck Special (good Saturday only)

**Need Cash for a night out?**  
**Earn Extra Money**  
New donors bring this ad in for an extra \$5

**Aventis Bioservices**  
(Formerly Seramed)

2 Locations:  
1 Block east of 8th and Garfield  
1901 West 8th Ave., Eugene 683-9430  
225 B Main St. in Springfield 747-4390

The University of Oregon Multicultural Center Presents **ZION-I**

8pm — \$8 students \$9 general EMU ticket office

live @ the EMU Ballroom  
Wednesday, November 12th

**Share A Miracle**  
Become An Egg Donor

The Fertility Center of Oregon has helped many couples achieve pregnancy since 1978. We are in need of **Egg Donors** to help infertile women.

Procedures are done in a pleasant local environment over a period of only six weeks, and donors are **compensated \$2500** for their time. If you are a **healthy woman age 21-31** and are interested, call 683-1559 or visit our website at [www.WomensCare.com](http://www.WomensCare.com).

**VOS Virtual Office Systems, Inc. Computers**  
In Partnership with UO Bookstore!

**AMD Athlon™ XP Processor**  
**"Power Player" AMD Athlon™ XP 2000+**  
**\$779.99**

- Gigabyte GA-7VKMP Micro
- Antec "LanBoy" Case
- 64 MB GeForce 2 MX
- 20 GB 7200 RPM Drive
- 256 MB DDR 266 MHz
- 17" .27 SVGA Monitor

System also includes ATX case with clear side panel, carry strap, lights, 350 Watt power supply, Windows XP Home, 52X CD, 56K V.90 modem, floppy, mouse, keyboard, sound, and stereo speakers

3131 West 11th. Ave. Call us at 343-8633 Open Mon-Sat 10-6

**digital DUCK** UNIVERSITY OF OREGON BOOKSTORE  
**CUSTOMIZING**  
This section of our web site is fun! Here you will find everything you need to make the best looking computer on your block. Check it out at: [www.voscomputers.com](http://www.voscomputers.com)

**Microsoft** OEM System Builder Gold Member 2002

VOS Inc. Systems are also available at the UO Bookstore. Prices good through 11/7/03. Trademarks property of their respective companies. Prices subject to change.