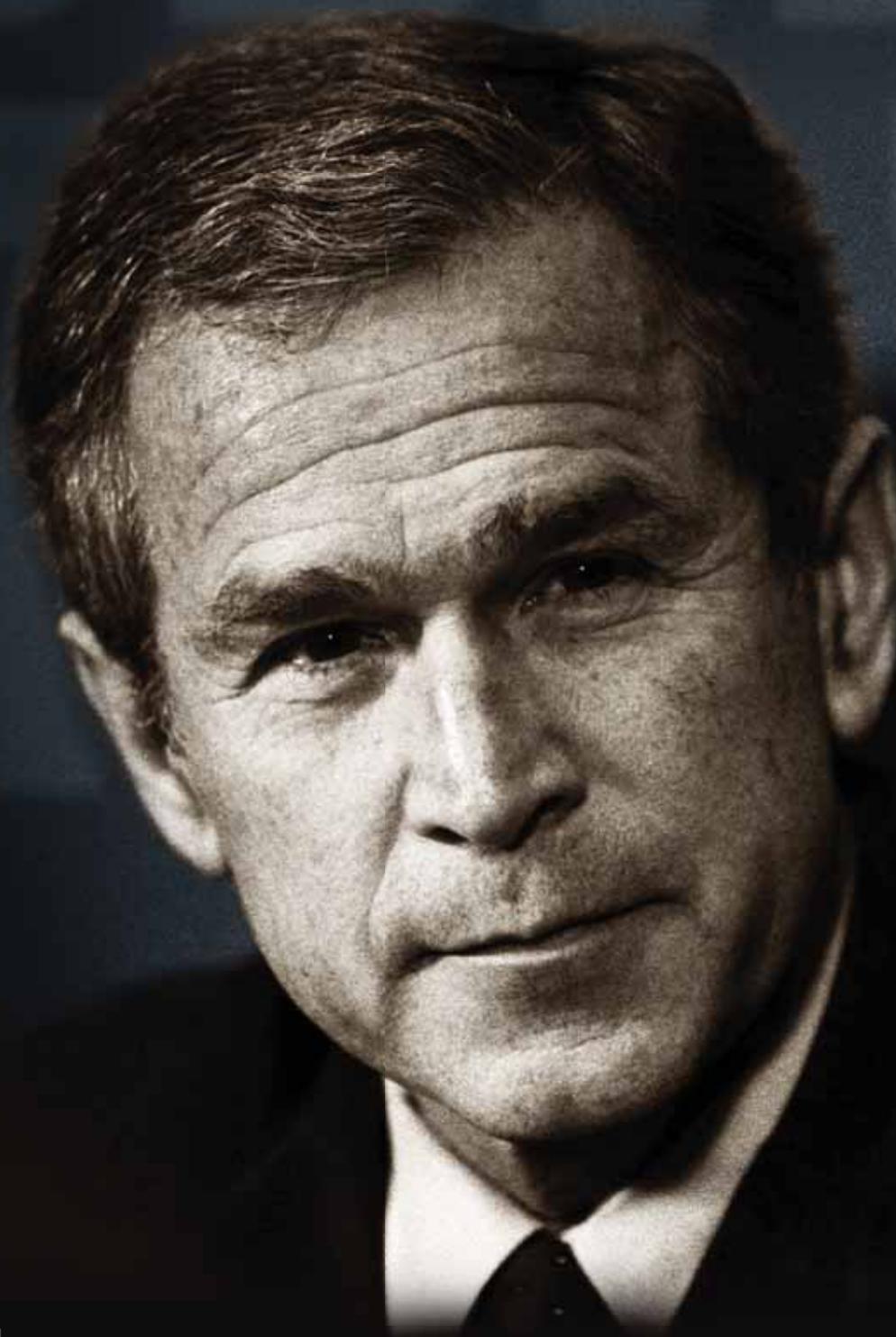


# BUSH'S WAR

4 x 60



International

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CONTACT

Tom Koch, Director  
WGBH International  
One Guest Street  
Boston, Ma 02135 USA

TEL 617-300-3893  
FAX 617-779-7900

tom\_koch@wgbh.org  
wgbhinternational.org

From the horror of 9/11 to the invasion of Iraq; the truth about WMD to the rise of an insurgency; the scandal of Abu Ghraib to the strategy of the surge—for six years, FRONTLINE has revealed the defining stories of the war on terror in meticulous detail, and the political dramas that played out at the highest levels of power and influence.

On the fifth anniversary of the Iraq invasion, the full saga of the American intervention unfolds in the two-part FRONTLINE special *Bush's War*. Veteran FRONTLINE producer Michael Kirk draws on one of the richest archives in broadcast journalism—more than 40 FRONTLINE reports on the war on terror. Combined with fresh reporting and new interviews, *Bush's War* is the definitive documentary analysis of one of the most challenging periods in the nation's history. More than anything else, the Iraq war will be the lasting legacy of the Bush presidency.

In the fall of 2001, even as America was waging a war in Afghanistan, another hidden war was being waged inside the administration. Part 1 tells the story of this behind-the-scenes battle over whether Iraq would be the next target in the war on terror. The conflicts were over policy—whether to attack Iraq; the role of Iraqi exile Ahmad Chalabi; how to treat detainees; whether to seek United Nations resolutions; and the value of intelligence suggesting a connection between Saddam Hussein and the 9/11 attacks—but the conflict was deeply personal.

Part 2 of *Bush's War* examines that war—beginning with the quick American victory in Iraq, the early mistakes that were made, and then recounting the story of how chaos, looting and violence quickly engulfed the country. Plans for a swift withdrawal of troops were put on hold. With only a few weeks' preparation, American administrator L. Paul Bremer was sent to find a political solution to a rapidly deteriorating situation. Bremer's first moves were to disband the Iraqi military and remove members of Saddam Hussein's party from the government; moves now seen by others as one of the first in a series of missteps that would lead Iraq into a full-blown insurgency.

What followed is well documented: insurgency, sectarian strife, prisoner abuse and growing casualties. But within the administration, a new battle over strategy was being fought—this one between a new secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice, and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. The clash between America's top diplomat and its chief defense official would go on for more than two years and be settled only after the Republican loss in the 2006 congressional elections. It was then that the president forced Rumsfeld out, ended his strategy of slow withdrawal and ordered a surge of troops. FRONTLINE goes behind closed doors to tell the most recent chapter in this ongoing story, and asks what Bush will leave for a new US president both in Iraq and in the larger war on terror.

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CREDITS

FRONTLINE Executive Producer: David Fanning.

Writer, Producer, Director: Michael Kirk.

Producer, Reporter: Jim Gilmore

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