《英国前副首席承认伊拉克战争“非法”》

导读:2003年，英美联军入侵伊拉克，震惊世人的伊拉克战争由此展开。现在伊拉克战争已经结束多年，但是其造成的后遗症令西方国家困扰不已，近日时任英国副首相的普雷斯科特承认说伊战非法。

John Prescott now believes the 2003 invasion into Iraq - carried out when he was Deputy PM to Tony Blair - was illegal, he admitted this morning.

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Lord Prescott made the admission in a newspaper column just days after Sir John Chilcot’s report into the lead-up to the war was published and savaged Blair.

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The Labour heavyweight used his strongest language yet to condemn Blair’s decision to take party in the Iraq War, a decision he supported at the time.

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Prescott, now a member of the House of Lords, wrote in the Sunday Mirror: ’I will live with the decision of going to war and its catastrophic consequences for the rest of my life.

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’In 2004, the UN secretary-general Kofi Annan said that as regime change was the prime aim of the Iraq war, it was illegal.

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’With great sadness and anger, I now believe him to be right.’

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On Wednesday, the Chilcot report returned a damning verdict on Britain’s role in the US-led war, finding it joined the conflict before all peaceful options had been exhausted and that judgements about Iraq’s capacities were ’presented with a certainty that was not justified’.

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It also disclosed Blair had written to then US president George W. Bush that ’I will be with you, whatever’ eight months before the invasion.

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Lord Prescott said the timing of the decision "was clearly designed to endorse an almost immediate action for us to go to war".

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He said that Mr Blair was determined to be a "special friend" to the US and president George W Bush.

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Referring to a previously secret memo disclosed in the Chilcot files, Lord Prescott said: "Tony’s note to Bush with that devastating quote ’I am with you, whatever’ was all the Americans needed to go in, without UN support."

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Mr Blair has defended the decision to oust Saddam and insisted that his efforts to form a close relationship with the US had persuaded Mr Bush to pursue a second UN security council resolution, which ultimately was not obtained.

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Some 150,000 Iraqi people were killed in the six years after British and American troops invaded, plunging the country into chaos and creating fertile ground for jihadist groups like the Islamic State.

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A total of 179 British troops also died.

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简答网 —jiandongshicai.cn—