

AMERICA'S ROLE IN NATION-BUILDING: FACT SHEET

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The current United States reconstruction effort in Iraq warrants a careful analysis of past cases of nation-building. This “fact sheet” summarizes important elements in seven US reconstruction efforts since World War II. These are the most important instances in which US military power has been used to underpin efforts at democratization.

Case	Length of US Involvement	Number of US Troops	Assessment
Germany	At least eight years (1945-1952), but US forces remain in Germany today	Ranged from 1.6 million in 1945 to 357,000 ten years later	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very successful. • Less than ten years after the end of World War II Germany was democratic, economically viable, and a member of both NATO and the European Coal and Steel Community.
Japan	At least eight years (1945-1952), but US troops remain in Japan today	Ranged from 354,675 in 1945 to 47,000 ten years later	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very successful. • The US adapted existing Japanese institutions and helped build a democratic and economically stable country. • Success of US efforts demonstrated that democracy could be transferred to non-Western countries.
Somalia	Two years (1992–1994)	Peaked at 28,000 in 1993	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not successful. • There was no sustained effort to help Somalia reestablish national and regional institutions and civil administration. • But the US, UN, and other aid agencies did provide humanitarian assistance in such areas as Mogadishu.
Haiti	Three years (1994–1996)	Peaked at 21,000 in 1994 [Also 1,000 international police]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not successful. • American and other international forces departed before a competent Haitian administration could be created, self-sustaining democratic structures could be put in place, or meaningful economic reforms could be instituted. • However, US reconstruction efforts achieved some goals such as restoring President Aristide to power.
Bosnia	Eight years (1995–present)	Peaked at 20,000 in 1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed success. • Local and national democratic elections were held within two years of the conflict, and international assistance has been critical to economic recovery. • But inter-ethnic tensions, the national government's weak constitutional authority, and the prevalence of criminal gangs have impeded progress.
Kosovo	Four years (1999–present)	Peaked at 15,000 in 1999 [Also 4,600 international police]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modest success. • Kosovo has been the best managed of America's post-Cold War ventures in nation-building. • US and European forces demilitarized the KLA, local and national elections were held 2_ years after the conflict ended, and economic growth has been strong. • Yet there is still no resolution of Kosovo's final status.
Afghanistan	Two years (2001–present)	Peaked at about 10,000 in 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too early to tell. • Reconstruction has so far been successful in denying Afghanistan as a launch pad for global terrorism and quickly installing a moderate successor to the Taliban. • But there has been little progress on the creation of democratic institutions, and the modest level of international support has inhibited the government from extending its authority beyond the capital region. • Most modestly funded of the efforts to date. Concern that low input of troops and money will yield a low output in security, democratization, and economic growth.