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Abstract of paper to be presented at the conference.

For details of the conference programme go to [www.iraqistudies.org](http://www.iraqistudies.org)

Speaker: Ibrahim G. Aoudé, University of Hawaii

Title: Iraq and Palestine: US strategy since 2006

Abstract:

Five years into the invasion of Iraq the US imperial project seems to have stalled. The complexities of the occupation had created a set of unintended consequences that the US had not fully anticipated. And yet, the US has crafted a "new" narrative about the occupation to prevent a total unraveling of its Iraq project. A defeat of the Iraq project would have adverse effects on US regional strategy. The coupling of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with the invasion of Iraq had been advocated by neo-conservatives in the lead up to the war. Part of the discourse had been that the invasion would be the way to "settle" the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and, by extension, the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Building on that long-forgotten thesis, US recent rhetoric seems to support the creation of a "Palestinian state." In the case of Iraq the recent narrative speaks about including the "Sunnis" in the fight against al-Qaida.

This paper will argue that the new narrative is but a cover that conceals real actions on the ground in both Iraq and Palestine that try to defeat the real resistance in both Iraq and Palestine. The aim is to maintain Israeli superiority and domination over the Palestinian people and to maintain the US occupation of Iraq. In terms of US global strategy, the goal is to try and "kick-start" its stalled imperial project.