

**People's Democratic Republic of Algeria**  
**Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research**  
**University of Mohamed Boudiaf MSILA**  
**Faculty of Letters and Languages**  
**Departement of English**



**Cultural Representations of Iraq War 2003 :**  
**Fact or Fiction ?**

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**Candidates**

**Ms. Saoudi Cheyma**

**Ms. Goumida Messaouda**

**Supervisor**

**Ms. Benia Amel**

**Board of Eximaners**

<b>Mrs. Saber Mohammed</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Ms. Benia Amel</b>	<b>Supervisor</b>
<b>Mrs. Sahed Bachir</b>	<b>Examiner</b>

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## **Dedication**

This thesis is modestly dedicated :

To our dear families, and

Dear friends.

## **List of Abbreviation**

**UN** : the United Nations.

**WMDs** : A Weapon of Mass Destruction.

**CCCS** : Center for Contemporary Cultural Studies.

**ISIS** : Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

**CNN** : Cable News Network.

**BBC** : British Broadcasting Corporation.

**APFW** : Asia Pacific Forestry Week.

## **ABSTRACT**

This dissertation it examine The Cultural Representation of Iraq War (2003) It aims to explain, and analyze the cultural representation of the Iraq invasion (2003) in media, and It include both Iraq war in media representation and Hollywood movies , novels whereas The first chapter we deal with the historical background of the war, it elaborates the causes and results of the war then we talks about the theories of representation and its influence on shaping the public opinion perceptions as culturelism and structuralism theories and how it depicts the war's events Then, this chapter focuses on the way that media represents the war or how it distorted in the cultural product that influence the public opinion as well as we examine some channels representation and their portraying of the events in the war .In The second chapter we tackles the role of Hollywood movies and novels in Iraq invasion. It focuses on the role of Hollywood movies and how did they deal with this topic, we choose an American movie based on novel's story about an American sniper .Finally, we take into consideration the importance literary works in narrating the war, and how did the writers present their point of view to the world through their works and how the Iraq war is often one sided in which it distorts the true events that happened during the war. Moreover, we shed light on the ways of mass media, , Hollywood, and novels deal with the war's issues and how did they depict it to shape public opinion.

## **KEYWORDS:**

Media, Iraq invasion, Cultural Representation, Stuart Hall, semiotic study, American sniper.

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## **Introduction**

Culture is a winning card in most issues since it deals with the key issues. Cultural representation is a way to convince people to accept the ideas behind the political issues, wars, and conflicts. In addition, It is the most important field and a sensitive aspect because it shapes the country' identity and tradition. That's why it is important to put the use of culture in conflicts as a weapon under the scope of examination and explanation. Culture is a concept that focus on "the exchange and production of meaning between people and how they share it among them" (Hall 2).

The world in the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries had known many important wars like Gulf war, the Iraq-Iran war, and the invasion of Iraq by U.S.A etc. They were delivered to people totally different from their real aims and goals by using cultural products. Iraq invasion by United States was a topic for many cultural works. The war began on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2003 and lasted till November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011, under the operation's name "Iraqi Freedom Operation", led by the United States against Saddam Hussein's government. The invasion led to the rapid defeat of the Iraqi army, capture and the execution of Saddam Hussein. "The Iraq war is the second after the war of Afghanistan which is characterized by the Bush doctrine of "preventive war" and about what some call the "new American empire". Moreover, this war is involved in the Global War On Terrorism that George W. Bush declared in response to the attacks of September 11, 2001"(Bassil29).

This thesis regards examines the cultural representations of Iraq war through media, Hollywood movies, and Fiction. Indeed, it appears through cultural products that we can see the effect of such events, Cultural representation in this research is divided between:

the media representation of Iraq war, the movies and their influence on people's awareness, and finally, the literary works and their depiction of the Iraq war.

Mass Media as an independent power has a key role in political life. Furthermore, it influences the public perceptions of important issues. The most important role of mass media is shaping modern culture (beliefs, values, traditions). Media was in the heart of conflicts, more than that, it contributes in war events developments, "Media plays a crucial role in representing conflicts, Especially when media systems are located in states –at-war, or find themselves in proximity of this states the media's traditional claims severe pressures towards objectivity, factuality and truth-speaking have to face". (Nico Carpentier & G. Terzis 3). Media helps people to know about the war development, it helps people to be closer to the war events.

U.S media coverage of Iraq war was presented by "CNN network", CNN network is the most popular cable network in the United States for news, and it had begun influencing other media outlets' coverage. In this way, media coverage can be manipulated to show effectiveness of weapons systems and to avoid covering casualties, or reducing the emphasis on them. Besides, The U.S media is often accused of being too critical of wartime policies, yet, scholars have found that the press tends to support the government in times of conflicts. On the other side, The Arabic coverage of Iraq war was presented by Al-Jazeera channels.

It is important to point out the role of Hollywood movies which is a direct and effective tool that affects and shapes the public opinion. There is a huge number of movies produced from 2003 till now that portray the Iraq war. War movies are a new genre of movies that is based on the action more than drama. Some war movies faced many problems to be successful, and they went under huge waves of criticism. Many other movies failed to report the war events and give the viewers a real image of what really

happened. A long list of movies have been produced such as: "The Messenger", "Oh my country! Oh my country!", "The Castle of Sand", "The Hurt Locker," and "The American Sniper," etc. While governments continue to send their young men and women into battle to fight, it is important that the movie industry speak truth to the public view. Furthermore, some of these movies are based on true stories. Yet, other movies draw in the viewer's mind an image that U.S.A is the only side who lost in this war, and that it tries to spread the peace which is a noble mission, and the soldiers that died in the war are martyrs.

What also affected representation of this war to the world is the novels written in both languages, Arabic and English. Fiction can deal with war through illustrate it in book's words. One of the famous Iraqi novels interested in Iraq war are *Corpse-washer* by Sinan Antoon, *Frankenstein in Baghdad* by Ahmed Saadawi, and *Escape from Baghdad* by Saàd Hussein. Those novels are some of many works that deal with the Iraq War as the main topic, "Those novels are non-American fiction novels written by an Arabic writers, set in the most brutal years of the civil war and uprising against the American occupation" (Luckhurst 21). Anaam Kajji, also, wrote about Iraq war in her novel *The American Granddaughter*, some reviewers described her work as the following: "If twenty journalists had gathered to write a joint report on what happened in Iraq the moment the U.S military entered Iraq, they would not be able to do what Zainah. She describes "how and why did Iraqis leave his country to live another state, she tells us how and why to volunteer people for military service" (wikipedia.com). Many American writers deal with the Iraq war in their works like: *The Yellow Birds* by Kevin Powers; a non-fiction novel narrated the experience of soldiers after the return from Iraq and their deployment. In addition, *Thieves of Baghdad* by Matthew Bogdanos, it is a non-fiction novel about a quest to recover over a thousand of artifacts stolen.

### **Statement of the problem:**

Although the political and military impact of the war have been over explored, cultural representation of the war tends to be given little room for research. The influence of culture on people is an open topic for many questions. It pushes us to examine the role of culture in shaping public opinion. First, we should underline the first cultural tool “ Media “. The U.S.A employs its power on the media in order to gain more supporters and acceptance among the public opinion. Moreover, Hollywood movies and novels have almost the same effect. Hence, The purpose of this study is examine the cultural representation of the Iraq war through examining various cultural products : Channels’ coverage of the war , Hollywood representation of the war ,and some literary works which deal with this topic .

### **Research Question**

The main question that is raised during this research is :Are cultural depictions of the Iraq war faithful or romanticized?

To further develop this problematic, the following sub-research questions should be discussed and answered:

- How does cultural representation shape the public opinion?
- What is the difference between Arabic and American representation of Iraq war?

### **Literature Review**

Many studies and books are written about the Iraq war, but most of them didn’t focus on in the cultural representation .Nico Carpentier and George Terzis in their book *Media Representation of War and Conflicts*(2005) explain that “the role of media in the

recent conflict and how it help in shaping the public image toward the wars. They show how media plays a crucial role in the conflicts through its coverage of the war events” (1). Nevertheless, in this book, the writers focus on media only, and they ignore the other cultural side like the influence of the war on the Iraqi cultural production such as festivals, movies, and literary works.

Raymond W. Copson in his book *Iraq War: Background and Issues Overview*(2003) explained the influence of the Iraq war on the foreign policy and the diplomatic relationship with European Allies and the Middle East. He explores the causes of the war and its effect on foreign policy of both countries: U.S.A and Iraq. Again -in this book – the author doesn’t pay attention to the cultural side, and he focused only on the political, military, and economic ones. He sheds light to the relationship between Iraq and the other countries after the invasion.

Roger Luckhurst in his book *Iraq War Body Counts: Reportage, Photography, and Fiction* speaks about the main Iraq war movies produced during the war period, he examines how these movies represent the Iraq war to the audiences. Furthermore, he analyzes some books and novels that dealt with this topic. In his book, Luckhurst analyzes the Iraq war through those works. He speaks about the cultural representation of Iraq war through reportage, photography and fiction, he asserts: “I want to investigate the photojournalism from Iraq that was intrinsically shaped by the severe restrictions around the representations of bodies during the American occupation.... I also want to examine a similar split in recent Iraq War fiction, ending with an examination of work by Iraqi writers”( luckhurst3).

The American novelist Sinan Antoon addressed through his novels : *I’jaam: AnIraqi Rhapsody*, and *The Corpse Washer*,the physical and psychological trauma of

wars and prolonged years of oppression in Iraq . In addition, InaamKiji wrote about the Iraq war and war's victims. What is noticeable about all their works is that they didn't focus on the cultural representation , they focus on the military side , the social and political sides with a reference to the cultural side .

*Writing Trauma in Iraq: Literary Representation of War and Oppression in The Fiction of SinanAntoon* is an MA thesis presented in Missouri university by ZahraaHabeeb that addresses war literature in the works of SinanAntoon and how he dealt with the Iraq issues. In this thesis, it is clear that the focus was only on the representation of trauma in the literature. Building on this academic documents, and due the lack of academic sources about the cultural representation of Iraq war, we conducted this research to investigate cultural representation.

## **Methodology**

Cultural representations' effect on public opinion through the use of mass media and the literary works is the main focus of the study. Cultural representation of Iraq war is our case study in the following research. Media portrays different cultures to the world. Both of them complete each other. Many schools were interested in the study of the cultural representation using media theories.

The field of Cultural Studies has a long relationship with media theory, and theorists in both the Birmingham and Frankfurt schools have been active participants in the relationship between society and media. Based in no small part on the work of Theodor Adorno, Max Horkheimer, Leo Lowenthal, Herbert Marcuse, and others the Frankfurt School emerged from a tradition of western Marxism to critically examine social theory, mass culture, and mass media( Rheams5) .

*The media and culture studies were under the scope of examination of many researchers and schools because of their importance and their complex relationship. Many schools conducted theories and academic research to study media and the culture relationship.*

Stuart Hall is one of the theorists of the Birmingham school which dealt with the relationship between cultural issues and media and technology. In his book *Representation: Cultural Representation and Signifying Practices*(1997), he uses the semiotic theory to explain cultural representation and mass culture , how the meaning is produced and shared between people, the image transmitted to the people , and how we store , process, and share the informations.(1-6)

Digital media theory focuses on the relationship between media, public opinion, and the cultural context.It examines what media ought to do in society and how it influences public opinionetc.To examine the cultural representation of the Iraq war: first, we determine the impact of mass media on the Iraq war, and how it portrays the Iraq war to the public opinion. For thiswe choose two famous channels which play the main role in the Iraq war coverage which are: Al-Jazeera andthe CNN broadcasting channels. Al-Jazeera Arabic broadcasting targeted the Middle East audiences, and the CNN American broadcasting targeted the American audiences. In the second chapter, we analyze the influence the effect of the war on the other aspects, which are Hollywood movies and the literary works, we analyze “The American Sniper” as an exemplar since it is a movie and novel. In the literary works, we choose *The Corpse Washer* by SinanAntoonsince it is written both in Arabic and English. At the end, we introduce a sum up of our research in a

conclusion answered the main questions posted before with a bibliography about the main sources that is used in this thesis.

## CHAPTER ONE: Iraq War and Cultural Representation

*Between the idea  
And the reality . . .  
Falls the shadow.  
T.S. Eliot "The Hollow Men"*

### 1- Overview about Iraq War

Iraq war was launched on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2003. It is the third Gulf war, known as "Operation of shock and awe" campaign, by the alliance a shocking day of violence USA and Britain, against Saddam Hussein's government to destroy "weapons of mass destruction" to leave the country or face military conflict. For rejecting Saddam Hussein's regime and his cooperation with oil Al-Qaeda as they thought, in which is caused the 9/11 terrorists attacks. While United Nations Security council giving Iraq a final opportunity to comply with it, and to cooperate with UN weapons inspectors to refuse the weapons of mass destruction. After that, the invasion led to the capture and Saddam Hussein's execution. This created instability and ethnic fragmentation, so, that produced a host of loyal issues in its wake. The myriad problems associated with facilitating democratic elections, and a stable government's accusations of war aims against all sides in the conflicts, and continuing unrest in the region. All played a role in the legal implications of Iraq war, by the purpose of create new government known as "global war on terrorism", and it ended on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011 when the last USA soldier left the country. (Copson)

Despite the fact that the aim of war is to disarm the Iraq from weapons of mass destruction, the truth is otherwise because America has faced a strong opposition from some allies, including German, French and New Zealand governments, arguing that there is no evidence about weapon mass destruction in Iraq. Thus, it guides other countries to make a protest against the war on Iraq. While American claimed that it wants to liberate Iraqis

people, by putting an end to the support provided by “Saddam Hussein’s toward terrorism, which is a threat through the world, the fact is that America’s goals were changing official Middle East’s regimes, through Iraq by the military force which led to the fabrication of this wrong claim.

## **2- The Causes and Consequences of Iraq War**

America’s destabilizing on the Middle East by their global hegemony and their policy against the pivotal event in which is Iraq war, despite that the invasion of Iraq were occurred by three level of analysis which are U.S global grand strategy, also U.S strategic position in Middle East, and the interests of Bush ruling coalition. Thus, to understanding the Iraq war, it should be express the inner main springs of U.S Middle East’s policy. However, the main idea of the invasion of Iraq is the grand strategy of the U.S under Bush hegemony that caused by 9/11 attacks. In addition, U.S.A claim that they are against terrorism and they are only the liberal model is legitimate with sovereignty, Thus US foreign policy based on the containment of threats, whereas hegemony derived from multilateral consultation.

Hence, Hegemony based on the use of American’s exceptional military capabilities. One of the main pillars of the US global hegemony is oil’s reserves concentrated in the Persian Gulf .It was crucial to military power also the world economy makes US powerful while there are two reasons behind the war as the US support for Israel and recurring western intervention to control oil supplies in Muslim middle East ,Therefore, America’s support and accept fund Israel’s colonization or the Zionist influence of the very occupied land . Thus, the invasion of Iraq was an alternative to balancing for the hegemony in the Middle East.

The 9/11 terrorists attacks on the US is central cause to understanding the war of Iraq, that's why the Bush administration had advocated an attack against Iraq to transforming the Middle East to suit US interests that consist of the legitimization of the war on a state by the Bush administration. Also, Weapon Mass Destruction's issues against Iraq. Furthermore, Bush claims that Saddam Hussein linked to Al-Qaeda by weapon of mass destruction in which Iraq represents an imminent threat to the USA. The Threat was never that WMDs used against the USA, thus it wants to constrain Iraq freedom and the action of the Middle East or threaten. So , The real motives behind the war and Bush's view through are the attacks against Iraq as a solution to US's problems, represented in shifting from security threats WMDs toward the strategic situation ( the oil markets ), and this resulted in the following details , because of the U.S's oil vulnerability. It was impact the oil from markets, and it makes the world capitalist economy vulnerable for the USA presidents.

Thus, Iraq is the solution, because it is the world's second largest oil field. Therefore, to support the US in the Gulf war, Saudi Arabia played effective swing role, although the war on Iraq carried grave risk to disruption of oil markets that could damage the US and world economy. Also, Embracing the Zionist agenda to removal Saddam Hussein's regime and the war seeing as a chance to restore the direct ownership of oil curtailed by the rise of OPEC through the privatization of Iraqi oil. Moreover, the US would subordinate Israel's expansionists ambitions to appeasement of the alternative was the conquest of Iraq and US to secure access to the Arab oil without Arab alliances by the seizure of Iraq oil field and used to break OPEC and destabilize of Muslim oil state (Hinnebusch9-15).

The regime changed in Iraq. Thus, it led to a vast category of outcomes because Iraq was a fragile artificial state from its creation and US deconstructed this state without any

plan under Bush's administration to take America to the top layer of leadership. Furthermore, Troops would be needed for the occupation and forced them to accept a fraction. So, A lot of fighters would join resistance, as well as the neo-cons belief that the invasion is a liberation, whereas the occupation multiplied power which created supremacy had the US acted in Iraq, as it was the invasion resulted in the breakdown of security, infrastructure and public health and the death of perhaps 100,000 people mostly civilians. The mass unemployment inflicted by the dissolution of the army, purge of bureaucracy and public sector layoffs. Also, the flooding of the country with foreign mercenaries and contractors, the reconstruction and the performance of Saddam's regime after the 1991 war; the expenditure of many outside Iraq, It is dissipation through massive corruption, war profiteering, and enormous salaries for foreign. The open US a vowel of its intention to acquire permanent military bases in Iraq. It is attempt in violation of the Geneva's convention. Thus, the biggest mistake, which turned Iraqi's against the occupation, was its failure to make the security. Another analyst point to the plan to sell off Iraqi's oil as a main driver of the insurgency. Furthermore, USA used Israel in the occupied of Iraq by bombing and firing densely populated urban areas, demolishing homes, collective punishment of villages, herding of thousands into detention camps, food blockades of suspected insurgent areas. The abuses revealed at Abu Gharib, not to mention the daily humiliations and occasional brutalities that come with the presence of an occupying army. Although, US's troops lack in respect for the country's people by welfare, it can check mate strongest military power in the world. Rather than, that the invasion showed that 82% of Iraqis opposed the occupation, and 57% wanted foreign troops to leave immediately, five percent or less Iraqis believed that US's invasion to assist Iraqi people, and destroy WMDs, or establish democracy. While 43% declare the aim was to rob Iraqi's oil.

The reconstruction of the Iraqi began in the destruction of sectarian, ethics leadership. Also, US politics of relying on the Kurds against Arabs and Shia against Sunis while many of these outcomes are unintended mistakes, the deconstruction of the Iraqi state depriving Iraq of collective purpose or identity. Moreover than that, vast disastrous consequences were against the middle East, as the rise of Shia power in Iraq gives Iran great influence, also, the oil's prices rise accompanying the war. Furthermore, the advocated a "clash of civilization" on the side, the neo, Christians fundamentalist and pro-Israel lobby around Bush administration. Although, the invasion of Iraq "delivered to Al-Qaida the greatest recruitment, Iraq has become a training ground for terrorism carrying Bin Laden's vision and new skills in a systematic welfare while Bush weapons inspector in Iraq said of the failure to find Iraqi WMDs after the war. The war after that cost Bush's combination tax cuts and military adventures turned 127 Billions dollars budget surplus the inherited in 2001 into a 374 Billion dollars in 2003. The US combination of excessive military spending with high domestic's consumption, and low taxes may still bring the Bush to a halt. Moreover, US troops killed reached 3000 in 2006. Total casualties have topped 17000 by 2005. Thus, few states believed it in their interest that Iraq become an epic entre of instability in the Gulf. So, the war's costs for the US hegemony appear to be significance, and the major costs of the war has been the loss of respect, and the US after 9/11 has given way to a global wave of hatred of American arrogance and militarism. Those outcomes behind Bush doctrine of "preventive war" are the response to 9/11 attacks.

While all of those cause and consequence of the war against Iraq. Various misrepresentation occurred by the USA in the Iraq gap, which has been disclose by several reliable sources, including: the rejection of Saddam Hussein to implement UN resolutions on allowing for the inspection committees to searching for weapons. But the truth is that America had a hidden goals, through which they want to obtain Iraqi's wealth.

Furthermore, the adoption of Saddam Hussein's and his decision to use of Euro curacy to buy Iraqi oil while enriched American's dominance upon the global oil market and supported the US dollar . Also, there are a personal hidden revenge between Bush and Saddam Hussein who tried to assassinate his father in Kuwait war in 1993 and completing Bush's father mission that he didn't complete in the second Gulf war ( Hinnebsuch 17-27) .

### **3- Military Involvement of U.S Forces**

Operation "Iraqi freedom" started on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2003 under the US forces with approximately 300000 coalition troops are a part of the invasion. The troops entered through Kuwait. The purpose was destroy chemical, nuclear, and biological Weapon Mass Destruction founded. After Saddam Hussein refused to leave Iraq, US, and its allied forces started attacks a various regions on the morning of March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2003. Thus US sent an aircrafts in which began to launch a bombs. US troops destroying bridges, dams and setting fire to Iraqi's southern oil wells. Whereas, some Iraqi forces resist and others they drew, they known as "Saddam freedom" .On April 9<sup>th</sup> Baghdad fell executing Saddam ,US forces seized the deserted "Baath party "offices and helped tear dawn a huge iron statue of Saddam in Baghdad's Firdos square . The military forces spread on March 20<sup>th</sup>,2003 In the evening American marines start the invasion by land toward the "Tigris Euphrates" valleys. Despite some circumstances, the resistance were drew, whereas on March 21<sup>th</sup>, they killed the first US soldiers.

In April 9<sup>th</sup>, Baghdad the capital of Iraq is captured ,after that the US paratroops attempt to took control the north through Turkish government , In May 1<sup>st</sup> ,president George W. Bush declares the mission Iraqi freedom for accomplished ,moreover than that , On April 13the soldiers fell of Saddam's hometown of "Tikirit" Whereas, some leaders escaped and Saddam Hussein captured on December 13<sup>th</sup> 2003. He passed toward the

judiciary for helped accountable for various crimes. He executed on 30/12/2006. In December 16<sup>th</sup>,2011 the last convey of American troops leaves Iraq, but before that the coalitions' casualties had been light the initials 2003 combat , even Bush ends the major military operation in Iraq from the deck of the aircrafts carries US Abraham Linclon (Encyclopedia Britannica.com)

There are all allegations made by each of knowing that the military forces the media has uncovered many facts, including them. They claim that there were no dead, prisoners or aircrafts in the early days of the war. Here Al-Jazeera published pictures, and forced the American speakers to recognize. Furthermore, the Iraqi officer who claimed to have clashed with men of southern Iraq, but the media sources after their invasion. They did not identify its identity. After the role of the media in uncovering the circumstances of the war, America is in a bind to the political pressure that prompted it to portray the war as a success.

#### **4- Political and Social Impact of Iraq War**

Warfare will create huge impacts into all existing state's aspects Since,U.S led occupation of Iraq in 2003, however, US follows a policy, which alinate regional cooperation towards building a sovereign, and secure Iraq. Meanwhile,speculation grows to divide Iraq,and USclaims violence due to "civil war between warring sectarian factions" whichseparated into three categories, Sunni, shite, and Kurdish, fed by a virulent strand of Arab nationalism, which was Saddam Hussein's regime. By the end of war, there were a big fragmentation in the domestic politics of Iraq. They had been victims of chemical weapons and massive hunts from the Iraq government.Iraqi separatist would "complicate the security problem". Thus, Iraq could become a political protectorate of US with no international oversight or regional input. In addition to that "Iraqi society faced a various

range of problems led to massive displacement of social and political instability and human suffering throughout several phenomena, as in education, health care, lack of security etc.

Further reasons, In education all levels were affected, thus , the Iraqi authorities respond by creating professions to avoid the uphill struggle for Iraqis , health, violence , threatens health in Iraqi and the country has some of the statistics for diarrhoea , measles, malaria, tuberculosis. It takes Iraq to rebuild the health system. Furthermore, poverty influence because 60% of Iraqi population are unemployed. Non-available of food, also, about women and children a several situation (violence, divorce, kidnapping etc) , while the displacement of Iraqis is the major social impact or seeking a better life . Thus, the political and social dimension of the conflict puts a tremendous burden on the civilian population in terms of human suffering, whereas the media coverage falls short of reflecting the real picture of events. In Iraq to show as the Iraqi society hardship in which losing a basic structure of social justice and hegemony( Al-Sumarate 933-942) .

Also, despite the announcement of the USA about the denial of having an impact on the state of Iraq, several evidence had revealed through media sources; as the disintegration of Iraq doctrinal, and social even the corruption, has affected the capabilities of Iraq, and the decline of industry, and agriculture in Iraq. While, American claims are they did not touch archaeological sites of Iraq, except cultural resources of Tigris and Euprates.

## **5- An overview about cultural studies by Stuart Hall**

Cultural studies is the power media has to perusuit an ideology to influence culture. As we heard toward the 21<sup>th</sup> , the role of mass media in society being hotly debated. The term “politics of the Image” refers to this contestation and struggle over what represented in the media. The program examines this debate by focusing on the work of one of the

world's leading experts on media issues. Stuart Hall is a professor of sociology at the Open University in England, he well known in media studies with his approach "Cultural Studies", and he starts with one of its central concepts: Representation. The usual meaning of this term connected with whether the depiction off something is accurate or distorted reflection. In contrast to this, Hall argues for a new view that gives the concept of representation a much more active and creative role in relation to the way people think about the world and their place within it. This new view of representation is central to think about communication in much more complex ways. Hall shows that the image can have many different meanings and that there is no guarantee that they will work in the way we think they will when we create them.

Nothing could be further from truth , Hall understands that communication is always linked with power, and that those groups who wield power in a society influence what gets represented through the media. Hall wants to hold both these ideas that messages work in complex ways, and that they are always connected with the way that power operates in any society, together at the same time. He examines our everyday world where knowledge and power intersect.

One way, he calls "Interrogation of Image". The idea of interrogation normally brings to minds asking hard questions of a suspect. How do we interrogate an image? By examining and ask about it? Rather that, just accepting it at face value, just as good interrogation interrogator looks behind the suspect's story or alibi. Must we probe inside and behind the image? Why should we think this way about images? Marshall McLuhan once said he was not sure who discover water, but he was sure it was not the fish. In other words, when we immersed in something, surrounded by it, the way we are by images from the media, we may come to accept them as just part of real and natural world. We just

swim through them. Unthinkingly, absorbing them as fish in water, what cultural studies would like us to do is step out of water in a sense and look at it, see how it shapes our existence, and even critically examine the content of the water (Hall 1997).

### **5- 1 Cultural Representation**

“Culture” as the most known concept in the human and social sciences has many different definitions. In more traditional term’s definition, “culture is said to embody the “best that has been thought and said” in a society. It is the sum of the great ideas, in as represented in the classic works of literature, painting, music and philosophy—the high culture of an age. The modern definition of culture referred to the distributed forms of popular music, publishing, art, and other leisure activities and entertainment (Hall 2).

Culture deals with the production and the exchange of meanings between a group people (society). When people have the same culture that means that they share the same ideas and express their feelings and thoughts in the way that they can understand it. We brought the meaning to the thing by frameworks of interpretation, which we bring to them. In part, we give things meaning by how we use them, or integrate them into our everyday practices. That is what called “Representation”(Hall).

### **5-2The Importance of Cultural Representations**

“Cultural representation is the process by which meaning is produced and changed between members of a culture through the use of language signs and images which stand represent things (Hall ). Cultural representation is important for academic fields as visual arts, design, architecture...etc. Spread by (explicit or implicit) ideologies and meaning. It touches all cultures of the world, its importance lies on: it becomes aware of social relevance of analysis of cultural objects, and practices from the perspective of representation, and reflection of culture, and society. Additionally, the ability to use the

concept of representation were accurately in analysing cultural objects, therefore, the experience in the application of theories in which link each field of cultural studies to theory of representation. Also, “their role of representation to tackle the issue within the most commonly used definition of representation” (19) consist the embodying of concepts, ideas, and emotions is a symbolic form which can be transmitted and meaningfully interpreted is what we mean by the practices of representation.(19). Furthermore, cultural representation importance through Iraq war , it lays claim to the achievement of great civilization, while on other hand , modern Iraqi history is marked by violence, war and discard, and despite the violence Iraqi artists, poets, and writers continue to produce full measure of artistic works outside and inside Iraq. The struggle for cultural remains perhaps, as intensive as the violence directed against it. One can help that Iraqi’s pride in their cultural heritage will prevail over attempts to obliterate it ( Raphaeli 33-42).

### **5-3 Theories of Cultural Representation**

To study representation, there are three main theories build according to the basic features defined by Stuart Hall in his book “Representation: Cultural Representation and Signifying Practice” (1997). Those theories are an attempt to answer the following questions: where do meanings come from? How can we tell the "true" meaning of a word or image and share it with other people?We sum up those theories as the following: Reflective theory, Intentional theory, and the Constructivist theory.

Reflective theory to representation language is said to function like a mirror ; it reflects the true meaning of an object, person, idea, or event as it already exists in the world (Hall 24). Whereas the Greek word “mimesis” is used for these purpose to describe how language imitates (or mimics) nature. Essentially the reflective theory proposes that language works by simply reflecting or imitating a fixed “truth” that is already present in

the real world (Hall 1997). So we conclude it that it holding mirror to society, thus reflective approach it suggests that what we see and hear through the media is a reflection of real life . this approach would have us believe that the producers are taking some things true meaning and recreating it in the mind of the audience ,however this theory it provide Iraq war some evidence that perceive as being reflective in media as the news (programmes and papers) they take what exist in reality and claim to then represent it to us as accurately as possible, like the events of Iraq war ,for example about the destruction of the "Firdos Square Statue" wan an event in the invasion of Iraq in 2003, which they appeared through media the end of the battle of Baghdad.

It argues the opposite, suggesting that speaker or author of a particular work imposes meaning onto the world through the use of language , words mean only what their author intends them to mean . This is not to say that authors can go making up their own private languages ; communication , the essence of language (Hall 25). Depends on shared linguistic conventions and shared codes within a culture. The authors intended meanings messages have to follow these rules and conventions in order to be shared and understood (25). and intentional approach is the producers are deliberately trying to represent someone in a certain way , and through representation suggests that all representations are loaded with the intent of the producers who created it . Unlike the reflective approach the most important details are not what is shown , but who is showing it . they are presenting their own view and the words and images used mean that they want them to mean , however all the media content in which demonstrates an intentional approach , this would mean that the producer would have to have some Intent, such as to persuade us something and propaganda is a good example of this , whereas this theory it provide Iraq war an evidence as the focus of the Bush administrations propoganda campaign for future news coverage of war are discussed

The constructionist approach recognizes the social character of language and acknowledges that neither things in themselves nor the individual users of language can fix meaning (Hall). Meaning is not inherent within an object itself, rather we construct meaning using systems of representation (concepts and signs); I will elaborate upon these systems further in my second model. According to Hall, constructivists do not deny the existence of the material world which conveys meaning, it is the language system or whatever system we are using to represent our concepts it is social actors who use the conceptual systems of their culture and the linguistic and other representational systems to construct meaning, to make the world meaningful and to communicate about that world meaningfully to others (25).

There are two major variants of the constructionist approach: the semiotic approach, which was largely influenced by the Swiss linguist "Ferdinand de Saussure", and the discursive approach, which is associated with French philosopher "Michel Foucault".

Semiotic is the study of signs in a culture (culture as language), though the semiotic approach does not consider how, when or why language is used, whereas the constructionist approach is a mixture of reflective and intentional. It is seen as a response to the weaknesses in those other two approaches, as some would argue that they are too simplistic. This approach suggests that the meaning of a representation is constructed in the mind of audience, moreover than that, constructionists would say that a representation can never be the absolute truth, nor can it only be the media producers version of the truth (25). These approaches ignore the one thing that you as audiences all have in common. The ability to make up your own minds, in addition to the external influences on you that the text has no control over (society). So the representation is constructed from a mixture of the opinion of people doing the representation, a reaction of the individual (Hall 10-11).

Constructivists therefore point to the way in which Saddam Hussein and his alleged weapons of mass destruction were constructed as threatening to the United States, they would ask what change in material capability or intention changed the threat posed by Iraq between the end of the Gulf War 2003 (IR Theory in practice case study; Oxford University Press 2017).

#### **5-4 Culturalism and Structuralism**

Culture is not any old thing, it's a shorthand for "high" culture as opposed to popular culture and it has an influence through artists and critics who associated the rise of industrial society and method of mass production and within this context "Hall" noted that "high culture as popular culture". So Hall's thinking on popular culture from his earliest pre-cultural studies, so culture is playing a reflective role in social and political change, and culture is a description of a particular way of life which express certain meaning and values not only in art and learning but also institutions and ordinary behavior where as cultural studies emerged collectively the contributions of Hoggart, William and Tompson, provided a basis with which to break from earlier traditions of thinking about culture established in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and to describe other critical assumptions as culturalism is a label applied retrospectively should not be understood as a self-conscious and its against culture in the idea of "culture was the best that had been thought and said", even that culturalism is a humanist position in the sense that it identifies human experience as the central agent in creative and historical processes.

As William state that: "phrase culture is ordinary has since become a slogan for the standpoint of early cultural studies, also "Richard, Hoggart" as a director of (CCCS) and Stuart Hall bringing a theoretical outlook to the centre, it was stimulated in the late 1960s called structuralism, so the publication was a part of a broader intellectual dispute in which

accused the structuralism of retreating from history and politics into abstract theory and the structuralism accused the culturalism of idealizing and simplifying political struggle by retreat(ing from theory , as well as structuralism it enable and govern meaning , according to Hall the relationship between language culture and meaning is constructed ,so structuralism raised questions over the culturalist assumption that meaning is expressed or reflected through culture, moreover cultural studied paradigms of Hall which are culturalism and structuralism divide and Hall aim to show how a recognition of the limitations and links between them more viable way forward for cultural studies , and Hall made a different between culturalism and structuralism, in which culturalism privileges lived experience as the agent of social change whereas structuralism an experience socially an effect of language and culture , although the two paradigms illustrate an ideological impact and personal and social psychology of the Iraq invasion , it notable that neoconservative ideology encompasses the ostensibly contradictory imperatives for the US to protect its hegemonic aspirations identified by culturalism and structuralism of opposing dictatorships and spreading democracy (Hall 12-41).

## **6- Media**

Media describes any channel of communication through which we disseminate news, music, movies, education, promotional messages and other data. It includes physical and on line newspapers and magazines, television, radio, billboards, telephone, the internet, social media, whereas media it describes the various ways through which we communicate in society ; while there are a various range of kind in media affected the society as : social media, mass media, TV, radio, magazines, television, internet, propaganda, journalism.

Media and journalism should be understood as part of a wider communication ecology that includes a wide range of stakeholders and practices. (How media can be an

instrument of peace in conflict prone setting 3). Media can be a tool to produce conflict and used as a weapon besides that it a tool to calm it , that means media can be a tool for peace and for conflict depending on the power that is using it . Media has affected the way people view wars , and often delivers false or distorted information and during the war in Iraq, media became much more up close up and personal with the war but this new technique of reporting did create much more news about the war , even if the information was sometimes very shallow . In the Iraq war, embedded journalists were often based when reporting stories , or threatened with censorship, altering the truth to show the American people only a positive look on soldiers activity.

Hence, cultural influences in media through the Iraq war portrayed differently , because American media focused on military strategy interpreted the war from the troops perspective and explained it as the US bringing freedom to the Iraqi people , thus culture is an important variable that should be considered when studying news production and coverage (Journals\_Sagepub.com).

In addition to that the use of social media in reporting conflicts by investigating how journalists position it explores if social media can mitigate the effects of military and government restriction of information, changing newsroom dynamics and issues of audience engagements in reportage of conflict, thus, this article argues that although social media adds dynamism to journalistic in Iraq war (Vittoria Sacco & Diana Bossio np) .

The Iraqi government has appeared to block access to social media websites in light of ISIS (Islamic organization) posting such as Twitter, Facebook accounts to help with recruiting , propaganda and their operational activities , as an example social media appeared that the invasion led coalitionand the violence that followed left thousands of

Iraqis wounded, because many Iraqis have lost arms or legs. Their suffering continues long often the violence ended. (Iraqi war victims turn to social media)

### **6-1 Media's Role in Recent Conflicts**

Media and war have a complex relationship, that started from centuries ago. The war media or the war propaganda accompanied every war that happened like World Wars, Cold War, etc. as it became a tool for dominant powers to push through their hiding files and projects especially the huge number of conflicts in the recent years. (Webster's Dictionary) .Defines it as the 'spreading of ideas, information, or rumor for the purpose of helping or injuring an institution, a cause, or a person (942) . The media coverage of wars plays on the chord of dichotomies and binaries. These dichotomies are good /evil, just/unjust, innocent/ guilty, rational/ irrational, civilized/ barbaric etc. Those binaries define the enemy as evil, guilty, barbaric. On the other hand, it define the victims as good, innocent, civilize etc.. And sometimes it becomes the opposite, the enemy becomes the good, and the victim becomes the evil.

Many wars were under these rules such as : The 9/11 events, the Iraq War, Arabic Spring, the War in Syria etc " some conflicts have acquired global attention through exposure in the media, others have failed to receive significant attention through neglect " (Puddephatt 6) . The media play the key role to shed the light on the world's conflicts, It can make it the main title for many channels and newspapers first page, and it, also, can miss them and make them ignorable events. So, media control the civil society response toward the conflict causes and consequences.

The 9/11 events were under the scope of the media's coverage, and whole world was in attention to know what happen, the events were in all the channels and newspaper both Arabs al-Shorok Al-Arabi, New York Times etc. The events were shown as

terrorist attacks by Al-Qaeda which was the evil that killed American innocent people. The Iraq war was also , influenced by the use of media, or more precisely the misuse of media. The media coverage of Iraq war was different from one channel to another, and each channel had its own view towards the war, each had its own causes to draw its pictures about the war. Many channels like Al-Jazeera , CNN , Fox News , BBC , France 24, and many others, took the leadership in the coverage of the events of the war .

## **6-2 Third-Person Perception and Public Opinion**

The new idea appeared to describing the contemporary war movies influences called “ third-person perception” .This idea is “ the belief of the influence that media messages influence others more than oneself( Johansson 81). According to Davison’s (1983) .concept of third-person effect, people tend to believe that other people are more influenced by mass media messages than they themselves are. This perception may lead to attitudinal or behavioral outcomes, such as support for censorship of media content (1-15).

Social comparison is a prevalent psychological process, as individuals tend to use others as a yardstick to determine their position in society, derive self-conception , acquire self-esteem , and make sense of themselves in their surroundings (Park and Salmon 2005). According to Festingers the social comparison theory (Festinger 1954). such comparison is often downward, as individuals are inclined to think that they are smarter, better off, and more fortunate than most other people. When people evaluate the potential effect of media, they also estimate themselves as much more resistant to media influence (Park and Salmon 2005). According to Davision , “The measurement of the third-person effect involves asking people two different types of questions , one focused on the perceptions of the influence of media on oneself, and the other on the perceptions of

influence of the media on others( Conners 7-8) . The third-person effect involves an evaluation of the influence on oneself, as well as the influence on others.

“When studying perceptions such as the third-person effect, however, one should consider cultural differences. Although it does seem to be a cross-cultural phenomenon sociopolitical factors may moderate the effect( 84) .people receive the media effect differently according to the external environment such as the press freedom, media infrastructure and the use of media itself. The third-person cares about the media use in the political and cultural issues , “Although media messages are important, results clearly show that direct media effects do not tell the whole story (84).

## **7- Iraq War in Media**

Media or the American media played a crucial role in the invasion of Iraq state , after the attacks of 9/11, the media helped Bush government to shed the light on Middle East. “The Bush’s assumptions regarding Iraq’s weapons capabilities and ties to international Islamist terrorist organizations; post-invasion political, economic, and security arrangements and other issues ( Hayes and Guardino 60 ) . The nonpartisan Center for Public Integrity, for example, documented 935 false statements (in addition to hundreds more questionable claims) by top administration officials before the war regarding the threat from Iraq (Lewis & Smith, 2008).

But, the media coverage before the war is so poor and not enough, for this there is little systematic and comprehensive research about the Iraq war before the invasion. Better empirical evidence that details the content of the news is required to verify widespread claims that the media helped lead the country into war, and to enrich our theoretical accounts of the mass media’s role in foreign policy debates and the shaping of public opinion more generally. Moreover, the pre-war period presents an opportunity to examine

the argument that voices emanating from outside the United States play an increasingly important part in media coverage of foreign policy in the post-Cold War era.

The Iraq press before the invasion was restricted under Saddam Hussein government, unless “the article 29 of the 1964 of Iraqi constitution grants everyone the right to express his opinion ( Kuttab 881). The Iraqi press topic were limited under what Saddam Hussein and his decisions, Saddam Hussein put many laws to punish the journalists who tried to change public influence opinion against the ruling authority .

After the American invasion of Iraq , Saddam Hussein’s doctrine was ended and its restriction of the press also ended . New laws passed to protect the freedom of journalism and a new situation caused the Iraqi media to the boom . “According to the Arab Press Freedom Watch (APFW), within nine weeks of the fall of the administration of Saddam Hussein ninety newspapers were established (884).

The fact-finding mission by the APFW was the first effort by an independent Arab organization to visit Iraq after the fall of Saddam’s regime. It was in Iraq from 10 to 17 June 2003, and issued a detailed report on the situation of the Iraqi press. “The report reveals a chaotic media landscape in which many media outlets are literally bought by governments, political groups and parties and have a clear agenda (885)

### **7-3 Al-Jazeera Coverage’s Iraq War**

The Iraq war gave the Arabic media an opportunity to cover an international event, and international channels like CNN. The Iraq war coverage by Al-Jazeera channel was a big challenge for the channel to get the audiences acceptance and competing with the other channels for a credible presence and transparent reporting of the war. According to the minutes of the first editorial meeting held at Al-Jazeera headquarters on 15th February

2003, involving editor-in-chief Ibrahim Helal and other journalists, producers and reporters at Al-Jazeera, “ the aim of the meeting was to discuss the coverage plan for the war; few fundamental issues were discussed by those attending, who were called “The Iraq crisis team (Bessaiso 273) . From the first moment of the war , Al-Jazeera channel captured the first seconds of the invasion by its camera with an active team . “The presence of Al-Jazeera inside Iraq had allowed the channel to extensively report the bombardment of civilian areas and thus to be able to challenge military claims of accuracy in targeting Iraqi military locations (277) .The headquarter of Al-Jazeera in Iraq helped it to show the war immediately since the war’s events were send from the war battlefield That’s help Al-Jazeera to gain the audiences trust .

Al-Jazeera focus on the human cost of the war, the channel was expecting that reporting civilian casualties would be one of the critical issues in this conflict for its emotional impact and perceived importance to viewers. Consequently, “it is assumed that the channel expected some military restrictions or perhaps boundaries from the coalition side on revealing the actual death toll of civilian casualties, in order not to be used as part of the propaganda war with the Iraqi regime, as this would seriously affect public opinion and stir more anger, especially in the Arab world (278) . Al-Jazeera focus on the civilian cost of the war rather than the military side which was ignored by the other channels . It helped in shaping the Arabic opinion toward the war and the other conflicts in the region. The presence of Al-Jazeera in the war stage limited the lies and the false news presented by the other channels like what happen in the previous Gulf war .

While the War on Iraq ,was accompanied by propaganda from many angles, and the Iraqi minister claims an information that the Americans will surrender or perish, or that they were nowhere near Baghdad to the subtle propaganda of coalition nations media , that

at times minimized the civilian casualties, so there were numerous challenges for the media while various forces also affected the media's coverage and depth (the Iraq War Media Reporting ).

In which the purpose was to rid that country of the dictatorship of the Iraqi president Saddam Hussein even Bush also charged that Saddam Hussein had, or was developing, weapons of mass destruction that he could unleash, or threaten to unleash on the rest of the world. The Invasion of Iraq was justified to the American people by a sophisticated propaganda campaign that affected the foreign policy, thus propaganda analyzing the feature of mass mediated discourse.

The Scope of the action is so immense and preempts its critique and it is show how the rationale for the invasion was developed as a " public conspiracy" thus , the new sources and media shared a logic and perspective about timely and entertaining news ( the propaganda project and the Iraq War).

## **8- Media Representation and Public Opinion**

It took a few years for the public to learn that US military personnel were paying Iraqi newspapers to publish articles that made the US military effort in Iraq look good ( Katteb 885) .U.S pay to fake the fact of the war and to present a unreal pictures The U.S.A attempts to cover the real event of the war were also located on the press office in the U.S , "The Pentagon has a contract with a small Washington-based firm called Lincoln Group, which helps translate and place the stories. The Lincoln Group's Iraqi staff, or its subcontractors, sometimes pose as freelance reporters or advertising executives when they deliver the stories to Baghdad media outlets (886) .

Cultural impact of media can affected both negatively and positively aspects as the norms and traits in the same way, in which new media technologies have touch our culture through various tools as television ( the New Times).

The New media as AL-Jazeera discussed a historic media organization through the Iraq war by some reported to understanding the suffering of the Iraqi even the overthrow of Saddam Hussein, however the use of propaganda can be sometimes called public diplomacy through the coverage of the Iraq War (Gilboa 200).

Whereas the mass media had little coverage on the primary reasons for the Iraq War . Media shows an evidences that the propaganda model is working, distraction at all cause from what was really the cause for the Iraq crisis (Fisk 140). In 1991the media portrayed Saddam Hussein as the new Hitler and in 2003 the news framed him as a terrorist (Paolucci 880).

CNN started reporting stories while they happen not waiting till the evening as the others channels did , by the end of the decade , CNN became in the leadership of the news' channels . “The Persian gulf war in 1991 had entrenched CNN as the “ gold standard ” for news reporting, while the other channels couldn't cover the war because the lack of the infrastructure needed to report from the war zone ( Megan and Zingarelli 8) . And , it was the only American news channel that cover the Iraq war in the first two weeks of invasion . After years , CNN become the most influenced channel in the public point of view because it was in the heart of many wars and conflicts which helped it to be in all Americans houses and got their trust .

## **9- Conclusion**

This research shows that the sources of information have been in a constant change in the United States, despite all the fact are occurred, the invasion of Iraq was a big mistake in which there is no clear valid reason for the war that left Iraqi people to live in a horrible situation. Media, as a cultural effect, have a noticeable role since it contribute in shaping public opinion. Cultural representation of Iraq war through media was wealthy and important, and it was in the scope of examination of studies. Although, the media play crucial role in Iraq war, Hollywood and literary works also play their own role. Iraq war was influenced by those features, which were targeted directly to people interested in Iraq war real events. Those features had a great influence in the war development since they contribute in shaping the public opinion, and guided audiences' point of view. That is what push us to focus also on Hollywood movies and the literary works in examine the cultural representation of Iraq war.

# Chapter Two : Iraq war in Movies

“The real war will never get in the books”  
(Walt Whitman)

## 1- An Overview About Hollywood

The first image that is drawn in our mind when we think about Hollywood is the image of dancing, pianos, shootouts at high noon, alien spaceships, and just about any romantic, fantastic, or emotional movies . Hollywood movies production started with a group of filmmaker escape from the winter condition of their cities New York and Chicago. Many events participated in Hollywood’s war movies emergence like : World Wars influence , The Cold war , The Gulf war , and it participated in many event like the 9/11 events .

Hollywood has succeeded in selling America to the world and created the American image for the world. The influence of Hollywood was under the observation of manyscholars“The projection of American values and products in bright colours has been observed by scholars” (Ilbi95). Hollywood productions were follow marketing policy to attract audiences’ attention towards its ideas through the bright marketing style. Maisuwong reports that:

“The world audience became consumerist overnight after watching movies, for example, the culture of eating low carb food in American movies caused the popularity of global consumer brands like McDonald’s, KFC, pizza, and so forth. Hollywood movies became an American ideological medium of mass communication, it influenced the movie industries in several countries as well. This is what is called Hollywoodization” (Albi 95).

Hollywood affected the movie industries in Asia and other countries to adopt Hollywood production style. Cowen (2001) corroborates this by saying “despite these powerful universal forces, the American and national component to Hollywood moviemaking cannot be ignored. Hollywood has always drawn upon the national ethos of the United States for cinematic inspiration” (95).

Powdermaker (1950) and Sigismondi (2012) describe Hollywood as such: “Hollywood is a unique American phenomenon with a symbolism not limited to this country. It means many things to many people. Hollywood can be defined as a global industry geographically concentrated” (96). Hollywood movies help in creating a national image and reinforce the major industrial products. Alibi (2012) continues by pointing out that “Hollywood movies seek to build a national image characterized by freedom, equality, prosperity and other positive aspects. Concepts such as “freedom” and “equality” are reinforced through storylines”(96). Hollywood industry has known a big success because of its good movies and well-marketed, for this it dominates on the global cinema production. Miller (2010) says “perhaps the most widespread of social anxiety about movie is to do with concerns about cultural Imperialism. Cinema has been a model for the global prominence of U.S culture”(96). Hollywood contributed in the emergence of the American mentality and fashion and style, food and clothes, that make the whole world fashioned as Americans do.

## **2- Movie**

Movies are documents of their time and place, there are artistic forms of self-expression. Recounting the plot of a movie, telling what happens, is the simplest way to explain it to someone else. But this is neither a movie review nor a movie analysis” (Jacobs 1). Movie is a story shown to the audience. This story is sometimes a real story and sometimes it is a fantasy or fiction acted by actors. Many movies are overt attempts by

their filmmakers to influence audiences in their points of view. Others are more interested in raising various issues for audiences to think about. “These may be less heavy-handed in supporting one view or another, and sometimes even come across as ambivalent, depicting opposing viewpoints as each having valid concerns and each having their good and bad points”(Jacobs 2) . Movies help in shaping the audiences point of view toward the recent issues, it introduces from the movie’s director perspective.

### **3- War Movies**

War movie also known as “combat movie” is a movie genre concerned with warfare, based on war’s, action stories, and sometimes real war events like World War II and the Cold Car etc. It is one of the great modes of cinematic expression typically about naval, air, or land battles, with combat scenes central to the drama. In addition, Oxford Dictionary of Movie Studies defines a combat movie as one that features , scenes of combat that are dramatically central and that determine the fate of the movie’s principal characters.

It has been usually associated with representations of twentieth-century wars. Edison Company films of the Spanish-American War are the first war’s movies. America’s Office of War Information exercised a great deal of control over scripts during World War II, resulting in prowar propaganda movies that came to characterize the combat genre . Movies depicting World War II (apart from documentaries) often fail to demonstrate the soldier’s post-war distress. Especially in the U.S, the trauma of World War II became the domain of Jews and other victims of the Holocaust. Furthermore, The Hollywood movies that spoke of World War II in general often concentrated thus on the combat and failed to portray soldiers’ trauma after coming back home.

Afterward, Vietnam's war also takes its part from war movie. American soldiers who fought in Vietnam have been subject of popular movies, books, and television. Themes adopted in this type of genre include combat , survival , escape ,camaraderie between soldiers , sacrifice , the futility and inhumanity of battle, and the effects of war on society and the moral and human issues raised by war .

#### **4- War Movie Production as an Industry**

Hollywood is not only about movies, it is also about production, distribution, audiences and popular culture. Hollywood takes its part of this genre, a thousand and thousands of movies produced to present this topic in TV and CINEMA, and billions of dollars spent in the production movies industry. Government and the filmmakers give an importance to this genre especially because this period had known a lot of wars like : Iraq war , Gulf war , Arabic spring ,World War II.Hollywood dominated in the movie industry again many other filmmakers companies like the French , German, Chinese movies.

We should define the dominance term, dominance is the ability of a firm to pre-commit itself strategic position which narrows the range of replies open rivals. Dominant firms have access to a differential movement advantage , which can be exploited by making some credible commitment which pre-empts rivals, and thus restricts the scope of their activities (Geroski & Jacquemin 1983 np) .Hollywood's dominance is located not only in film, but also in media, culture, economics, literature,etc. Dark Silver explain Hollywood popularity and dominance on the movie's world he asserted that:

Consequently, a range of explanation have emerged that address different aspects of that dominance and the global popularity of Hollywood movies. Most films produced each year around the world are independent productions. However, when it comes to accessing

film finance, and distribution deals that can place independent movies onto the world's cinema, it is not a level playing field" ( Derek Silver 06).

Furthermore, the filmmakers faced many difficulties to work out side Hollywood since it leads grand movie companies which eliminate the other companies capability to produce:

Filmmakers working outside the Hollywood system often find it difficult to achieve a theatrical release in international markets outside their home territory. This is because an industry structure and related market practices have evolved over nine decades, creating systematic barriers that have severely disadvantages smaller independent companies in all three key industry sectors: production, distribution and exhibition( Silver& Alpert 57 ).

A lot of causes push Hollywood to be in the leadership of the cinema production . First ,Hollywood benefits from the U.S domestic market's large size and demography, Secondly , Hollywood's exploitation of new technologies enable the maintenance of dominance, Thirdly , Cultural channel economics have preferred Hollywood.

### **5- The influence of War Movies**

The entertainment media can be considered as one of the third forces because it plays an important role in the wars. It can be the organization that can influence the outcome of the armed combat. Hollywood's depiction of service members in combat and veterans at home, military leaders can respond better to media-influenced perceptions of military institutions and the people who provide our nation's defense . Cinema is the most complex and powerful art form in the present world . It can help us to better understand our own lives , the lives of those around us and even how our society and culture operate . They can shed light on political and spiritual

matters too and can provide a perspective and may open our eyes to new ways of thinking , feeling and pursuing our lives .

War movies can influence adults because they are the most sensitive range in the society; it influences their personality, their attitude, and their opinion. War movies and adult have a complex relationship, Adults are a direct consumer of the material presented. For this, the first target audiences by the power poles used to influence the public opinion is the adult and teenagers, the story presented in the movie whether it is correct or not, it has a great chaos in the consumer point of view. We should take care to see whether the movie could reach people beyond those who already knew and cared about the issue illustrated in the movie. The movies are assumed to cultivate images of society another meaning, the movies generally show a view of reality.

## **6- The Social Awareness and Hollywood**

Social awareness is an abstract idea which means the ability to take the perspective of and empathize with others from diverse backgrounds and cultures , to understand social and ethical norms for behavior , and to recognize family , school , and community resources and supports . It enhances a person's ability to effectively read the criticality of a social situation and further react in the most appropriate manner.

The combat movie can influence on civilian and military perception of service members and veterans. Movies can be a powerful tool to bring about effective social change , it seems intuitive and logical that a well make movie – especially one with compelling narrative and well-crafted outreach plan would serve as a catalyst to change minds ,and encourage viewers to change entrenched behaviors , and start inform and reenergize social movements( Barrett and Leddy np).

But, not all movies are intended to be agents of social change, nor should be they be. Some are simply love stories whose primary purpose is to entertain and share a compelling

story. In 1920, movies exploded as mainstream entertainment as there no radio or TV set in this period, a lot of researchers believed that movies had impact on attitude and behaviors of people. Many researchers conducted a lot of studies about movie influence: Herbert Blumer conducted a questionnaire to study how movies influence the behavior of people. The result was most of people said that they are influenced by movies in some way ( a brief History of media Effect Research np ) .

A good movie story is the key to the audience's influences, if the movie does not connect with its audiences and generate empathy, it is very unlikely to gain the traction that an impact campaigns requires to make change. Also, movies can bring audiences inside stories and communities that they might not otherwise be familiar with, provoke dialogue and inspire people to take action. Furthermore, movies allow us to do this through authentic stories, often across difference. When this need to connect is fulfilled, it can translate into deep and passionate support for the issue depicted in a movie, and this emotional and engaged support from viewers is critical to a successful social impact campaign.

The Russian born movie commentator Alexander Basky was quoted by John Trumpbour in Wasko and McDonald (2008) explaining why Hollywood is the dominant force in global movie making. He affirms that : “The movies of today are a vast industry supplying the nations of the world with a standardized , machine- made entertainment” (Ibbi 98).

### **7- The Iraq War in Movies**

In 2004 and 2005, there were numerous movies debating the war. The number of domestic films that challenged the status quo during this period outnumbered those supporting the war. It is argued that the Arabic films played a

significant role in inflaming the public's attitude toward the war in Iraq . Once Hollywood perceived a fictional market for films that challenged the ongoing war(s) and began to release fictive features in some number , there was no longer a need to import Arabic films .

For the most part, cinematic treatment of the war reflected the public's attitude toward the wars. The outpouring of early movies , mostly documentaries , such as "Uncle Saddam" (2002) , "Saddam's Bomb maker" ( 2003 ), and "The Hunt for Osama bin Laden"(2004) , clearly cast the two leaders in an nefarious light , deserving to be removed from power . Other movies , such as "21 Days to Baghdad" (2003), glorified the spectacle of war and paraded America's military might in "taking " Baghdad and removing the Taliban from power . Still other movies , such as "Gunner Palace and Operation : Dreamland", tended to present the troops in a positive light : military personnel doing the best job they could in a climate that was overtly hostile to their presence . Dissenting voices were heard, of course. "Uncovered : The War in Iraq" (2003) was among the first to challenge the status quo by alleging the Bush administration mislead the public about Saddam having Weapons of Mass Destruction ( Britannica.com).

The Arabic movies released in the United States during two critical year period ( 2004-2005 ) informed the American public about facets of the war Americans had not to that point seen in domestic cinema . The contention is that exposure of American viewers to an alternative point of view at a crucial point in time helped inflame animosity toward the war in progress. It also served as a catalyst to changing attitudes toward the war that would, subsequently, be

taken up by the domestic movie industry once the shift in attitudes became entrenched.

### **8- “ American Sniper”**

The 2014 Oscar’s nominated movie “American Sniper” is a biographical war drama movie based on the book *American Sniper* an Autobiography of the Most Lethal Sniper in U.S. Military History directed by Clint Eastwood. The screenplay was written by Jason Hall. The film itself was directed by Clint Eastwood and starred Bradley Cooper as Chris Kyle. This movie based on the life of an American War Veteran who went to extensive lengths to portray the military and personal life of an extraordinary individual torn between family and duty.

Far from being an ordinary war movie, “American Sniper” is-first of all- a typical US movie, which does not only reflect the values and hopes of a certain part of America but also deep US policy trends. The movie is not just a military memoirs, but also a timeless piece of a man who dedicated his life to protecting the people he served with and the nation he loved. The movie took a different angle than most military shows because it is also a character study. The show revealed a man who was torn between two great responsibilities, that of his country and his family. The movie follows the life of Kyle, who became the deadliest marksman in U.S military history with 255 kills from four tours in the Iraq war, 160 of which were officially confirmed by the Department of Defense. While Kyle was celebrated for his military success, his tours of duty took a heavy toll on his personal and family life. He is mulling it over with his brother when he sees news coverage of the 1998’s U.S embassy bombing and decides to enlist in the navy. He qualifies for special training and becomes a U.S navy seals sniper, In Iraq is assigned to kill Mustafa, who has been sniping U.S. Army combat engineers building a barricade . Kyle’s sniper team is placed on a rooftop inside enemy territory. Kyle spots Mustafa and

takes him out with a risky long distance shot at 2.100 yards (1920 m) but this exposes his team's position to a numerous armed insurgent.

After Kyle gets back, on edge and unable to adjust fully to civilian life, he is asked by a veterans affairs psychiatrist if he is haunted by all the things he did in war. He replies that it is "all the guys he couldn't save". After that Kyle gradually begins to adjust to home life. Years later, Kyle says goodbye to his wife and family as he leaves in good spirits to spend time with a veteran at a shooting range. An on-screen subtitle reveals 'Chris Kyle was killed that day by a veteran he was trying to help.

### **8-1 Criticism of movie "The American sniper"**

The movie has faced a wave of criticism after its appearance in cinema. The first criticism was that the movie had a political tone, since the movie's protagonist, Chris Kyle watches the attacks on 9/11 and is then in the next scene is fighting in Iraq that create a political tone in the movie events. That led the movie's audience to assume that there is a link between the two events. Nevertheless, the director claims that The movie was not about the politics of it all but rather about the ways in which war affects soldiers and their families and there is no link between the movie and the political issues. The second criticism was about the disconnection between the book versus what played out on the big screen. The director claimed that there have been recent claims that even Kyle's book was exaggerated. This disconnection between the book and the movie was widely examined.

Despite the heavy criticism, the movie received large popularity and won many awards. Thirty-three of forty reviews by "top critics" collected by Rotten Tomatoes are classified as "fresh" with an average rating of 7.2 out of 10. The film also received six Award nominations—Best Motion Picture, Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading

Role, Best Writing (Adapted Screenplay), Best Achievement in Film Editing, Best Achievement in Sound Mixing, and Best Achievement in Sound Editing—but won only one, the latter.

## **8-2 The image of Iraq through “The American Sniper”**

Because of the “First Person Approach” chosen by his director, the movie does not offer the same kind of nuances about war and its consequences. At first sight, the enemy is described in a simplistic and sometimes caricatured way, which reflects Chris Kyle’s vision of the conflict was engaged in. This kind of narrative is often criticized among movie-lovers and critics, not only in Europe but also in America. From our point of view, this is, paradoxically, an explanation for Eastwood’s last movie’s success, which also reveals deep trends of the “American national style”, defined as “a collective perception” of the world as a whole that could affect the formulation of foreign policy.

Among the elements of the US national style pointed by Louis Balthazar, several of them can be found in this highly debated movie. “First of all, Kyle’s vision of the world tends to be somewhat ethnocentric. At no moment does he question the American cultural supremacy. The whole movie is filled with various references to a certain kind of US culture, included to the highly emblematic Texan one. The soldiers fighting together with Kyle seem to consider Iraqis as “savages” and “barbarians” (Klassen 2). This kind of monikers is not insignificant. It suggests that these people, referred to as “Hajis” reject values seen as universal and inherently good. This dichotomy between civilization and its enemies, coupled with a paranoid tone, is typical of the US national style. However, these representations must be put in the specific context of the Iraq War.

The hero is immersed in an asymmetrical conflict in which the enemy intentionally blurs the distinction between fighters and non-fighters and does not hesitate to use most

cruel guerilla warfare techniques. The opening scene, showing a woman and her child acting like human bombs, shows that the threat can come from anywhere, hence, there is a deep mistrust towards the local population among the US troops. Besides, Kyle's main enemy-the Syrian marksman- is not underestimated nor demonized. "Furthermore, the movie has also been criticized for its portrayal of the Iraqi people. Frequently throughout the film, the major characters (predominantly US military servicemen) refer to the Iraqi locals as "savages," giving little to no acknowledgement that there are both good and evil people in this country" (Klassen 2).

## 1- War Literature

The war novel is a “novel in which the primary action takes place on a battlefield, or in a civilian setting (or home front), where the characters are either preoccupied with the preparations for, suffering the effects of, or recovering from war” (McLoughlin 6). Many war novels are historical novels, focusing on a historical event such as WW II, Cold war, Iraq war etc. War Literature illustrated the war’s results or the war’s consequences. Another definition of war’s literature by McLoughlin said : “It records the acts of war with as much accuracy as it is possible, and it memorializes the dead” (6). The reader explores through the text the war tears, pain, and the fear of the war’s victims. Readers can feel the war existence around them through writers’ language, emotions, and style. In this regard Mc Laughlin explains that “The text becomes a place of rehearsal, and reading becomes a process of approaching and testing fears. The war writers thus serves as a knowledgeable guide to the “scene of risk”. This is one reason why war... requires personal experiences on the part of those who seek to convey it” (8).

## 2- The Origins of War Novel

The origins of this type of novels dates back to the classical and medieval ages. The main works of this epics is Homer’s *The Illiad*, Virgil’s *The Aeneid*, and Sagas like *The Beowulf*, and *Arthurian Literature*. All of the themes of these works were addressed history, mythology, and narrated the conflicts between societies. Other types of the war novel are the tragedies of dramatists such as Euripides , Seneca the Younger, and Shakespeare. Romances and satires in Early Modern Europe, like Edmund Spenser’s epic poem “The Faerie Queen” and Miguel Cervantes’s novel *Don Quixote*, also contain elements that influenced the later development of war novels. “In terms of imagery and symbolism, many modern war novels (especially those espousing an anti-war viewpoint) are influenced by Dante’s depiction of *Hell in the Inferno*, John Milton’s account of the

war in heaven in “Paradise Lost”, and the “Apocalypse” as depicted in the biblical “*BOOK OF REVOLUTION*”(Wikipedia.com).

As the realistic form of the novel rose to prominence in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the war novel began to develop its modern form, although it was satires rather than truly realistic portraits of war. An example of one such work is Hans *Christoffel Von Grimmelshausen's Simplicius Simplicissimus*, a semi-autobiographical account of the Thirty Year's War. The war novel came of rose age with the works of *Stendhal's The Charterhouse of Parma* (1839), which features the Battle of Waterloo, *Leo Tolstoy's War and Peace* (1869), about the Napoleonic Wars in Russia. What is noticeable about the war novel is that it focus on realistic features , “All of these works feature realistic depictions of major battles, scenes of wartime horror and atrocities, and significant insight into the nature of heroism and cowardice , as well as the exploration of moral questions”(War novel n.p) .

After World War II, The Vietnam war has attracted the greatest number of novelists, Graham Green's *The Quiet American* was the first novel to explore the origins of the Vietnam war in the French colonial atmosphere of the 1950s . Because of the wake of postmodernism, and the absence of wars equaling the magnitude of the two world wars. The majority of war's novelists have concentrated on how memory and the ambiguities of time affect the meaning and experiences of the war. Iran-Iraq war was also an interesting case for novelists. Event and memoires of Iran-Iraq war has led to unique war novels.

### **3- The Rise of Iraqi Novel**

The Iraqi novel had known many steps before becoming as it is now. We can divide it into two periods: the first one is “before and during Saddam Hussein's rule”, and the second one is “after Saddam Hussein's rule”. Its real beginning dated back to the mid-

1960s, but some researchers see that the Iraqi novel reached its maturity in the 1960s, others see that the existence of Iraqi novel as new literary genre came under the influence of the western novel. In all cases , “the first Iraqi narrative work dated back to the 1920s , with the works of Mahmud Ahmed Al-Sayyid (1903-37) who wrote *For the Sake of Marriage* (1920) and *The fate of the Weak* (1922)” (Mohammed np). But, The Iraqi novel waited until 1966 to reach its real beginning with the publication of GhaibTu’ma Farman’s *The palm Tree and the Neighbors* (1966). Between1927-1966, the Iraqi novel had known very few significant works were published like:*Two Mad Man* (1939), by Abdul HaqFadhil; *Doctor Ibrahim* (1939) by ThinoonAyoub. Yet no significant novels were published during that period.

However, the birth of Iraqi novel corresponded with the rise of military dictatorship in the country. Iraq was under the Baathists’ power and “Their bloody, short-lived rule would soon be replaced by another coup until this period culminated its achievements by the rise of the Baathists to power again in another coup in 1968.”(Mohammednp). Indeed, this period had known what is called “Baath literary” which was under the Baath Party restriction. Therefore, no memorable or significant novels were published in that period inside the country. The most important novels of this period are : FadhilRahmnMajeed al-Rubaie’s*The Tattoo* (1972) , GhaibTu’ma Farman’s *The Travail* (1972) .Evidently , it was Farman (1927 -1990 ) , who contributed greatly to the artistic advancement of the Iraqi novel and its rise as a distinct genre in twentieth –century Iraqi literature . Still, he published all his novels in exile living in Moscow.

The period between 1980 to 2003 witnessed two great wars : the first is the Iraq-Iran war of 1980 -1988 , and the second is the Gulf war 1990 – 91.“These wars are followed by a long period of international sanctions against Iraq lasted from 1991 until

2003 and amounted to an almost total financial and trade embargo on the country. These wars left their marks on all aspects of life, especially literature” (Mohammed np). The narratives of this period was infected with this sort of sadism. The regime sponsored this type of writing because it used as a weapon to propagate its wars. That is why the regime’s cultural apparatus called the novels of this period “the novel of Saddam’s Qadisiyyah” in reference to Arabs and Persians’ historical battle (Mohammednp). What is remarked in this narrative period is the lack of any artistic merit. Nevertheless, it is a scar in the body of Iraqi literature that have prevented the Iraqi novel from maturing to its full potential.

The new beginning started after three decades of dictatorship regime, wars, and international sanctions. The Baath regime led the country to destruction.

For the first time, novelists found themselves free to write about whatever they liked without any fear of being persecuted by the state apparatus. Hundreds of novels were written between 2003 and 2017. It is estimated that this period witnessed the writing of more than 850 novels, more than the number published in the entire history of the Iraqi novel( Mohammedn.p )

“All novels were more close to the truth than fiction, but the truth became a kind of fiction in the kingdom of the hell” says the novelist Haitham al-Shewaili at the inception of his novel *The Compass of The Day of Judgment* novel that explores events that preceded 2003 and led the country to its present conditions. Also Ahmed Saadawi, in *Frankenstein in Baghdad*, portrays a horrid picture of the reality of violence and its victims in the country after 2003. By this time, The Iraqi novel has reached maturity and secured an important place on the literary map both nationally and internationally.

#### **4- The Iraq war in Novels**

The researcher Roger Luckhurst provides a kind of survey that shows the poor literary coverage of the 2003 Iraq War in comparison with both the Vietnam War and

the 9/11 events. He claims that “no major literary text provides a clear picture of the invasion, post-operation period, or the following civil war in a way comparable to those written on 9/11 or the Vietnam War (Habeb 5-7). The years of wars, tyranny, embargo, and an ongoing civil war have a great impact on defining and shaping the content as well as the formal and stylistic techniques of Iraqi fiction. “Fiction has become an essential tool to reveal the destruction of the country, and the increasing annihilation of its inhabitants”.(7) In many Iraqi novels, surrealistic elements, nonlinearity, fragmentation, and other related techniques are used to narrate, and document the unavoidable reality, and the traumatic situation that the country has undergone for decades. Luckhurst argues “that the resistance to narrative or representation of this contemporary war means that cultural narratives about it are often displaced or filtered through the iconography of prior wars” (8-10) . That is which might be one of the reasons for the lack of literary coverage of the Iraq war.

American’s fiction about the Iraq war was like an attempt to show the real war picture different from the picture drawn by the media. Many authors considered their works as a response to the question of what it feels to be in the battlefield and an effort to tell people about the adversities of being in the war; “Most of these literary responses to the Iraq war that have been written in English follow a kind of pattern and perspective that is concerned with the situation of the invading troops in Iraq” (11). However, few of them discuss the situation of the Iraqi citizens’ and Iraqi’s soldiers reaction to the war in their homeland or the effect of being subject to decades of oppression, tyranny, and other wars; they only focus on the American side.

The American fiction which dealt with the Iraq war focuses on the occupation and the soldiers and explores the helplessness, in *Generation Kill* by David Simons, *yellow birds* by Kevin Powers and Ben’s Fountain *Billy Lynn’s Long Halftime Walk* all these

works talk about the first days of Iraq occupation and criticized the leadership of the U.S in Iraq . Although, They set after Iraq invasion, they criticized the war and its false excuses.

### **5- Trauma and Iraq War**

War period influenced themes of Iraqis writers, it also created a new voice of oppression and violence. The voice of freedom appears clearly in the Iraqi writers' works. The Iraqi-American novelist Sinan Antoon is a wounded storyteller who devoted himself to copy his nation's war to the papers. Habeeb define in trauma in literature as the following "Trauma is the psychological damage that is caused because of events in which the response to the event occurs in the often delayed, uncontrolled repetitive appearance of hallucinations and other intrusive phenomena, the trauma stress is deferent from the ordinary life stress, it is a result of the surprise element" (2). She explains that "Freud relies on dreams to provide an explanation of the mental process involved in facing trauma, arguing that traumatic neurosis' dreams "have the characteristic of repeatedly bringing the patient back into the situation of his accident," which creates a traumatizing cycle"(2). Freud explains that trauma is a kind of psychological ill disorder, which appears in dream as a way to avoid the shock.

Fiction has become an essential tool to reveal the destruction of the country and the increasing annihilation of its inhabitants. In many Iraqi novels, surrealist elements, nonlinearity, fragmentation, and other related techniques are used to narrate and document the unavoidable reality and the traumatic situation that the country has undergone for decades(7).

The Iraqi writers used those techniques to express their ideas and point of view in their works. The Iraqi novel was full of war images and its consequences. That is why The Iraqi writers draw the war with an artistic words and language style.

## **6- SinanAntoon's Works And Iraq War**

### **Corpse Washer**

"*The Corpse Washer* is a translation of *WahdahaShajarat al-Rumman* [The Pomegranate Alone], which was published in Arabic in 2010. The book tells the story of a young man named Jawad who belongs to a family whose ancestral profession is corpse washing" (40). Jawad the protagonist of the novel was born in a family of corpse washers, but his wish was to be an artist. He refuse to be as his ancestors a corpse washer and Jawad enters Baghdad's academy of Fine Art where he meets his girlfriend Reem .Jawad opposed his father's wish to be a corpse washer, and he chose his own way to study art.

Years ago, the Iraq invasion by U.S.A damaged Baghdad's academy of art, this academy was the first start of Jawad; his first years were there. After this accident, Jawad decided to return to his original grandfather's job a "corpse washer". With the development of the story, Jawad faces many shocks or the death of many family members like his father, Reem, and the disappearance of many other members. Every day, he receives the death messages, therefore he was obliged to wash the corpse of many his loved ones.

### **7- The Analysis of Corpse Washer**

The corpse washer is an illustration of the war influence on our life, how it can change our attitudes, our wishes, and our future. SinanAntoon in his novel describes war's results: fire, death, and disappearance .In this novel, the city becomes a battlefield, or the life under fire, a city where all people are waiting for death and looking for an opportunity to live peacefully. *The corpse washer* is a traumatic novel that narrates the war trauma: violence, nightmares, death, fear and hopelessness. Nightmares is one of the war result, it is an escape from the reality to the dream world but because the war damaged the Iraqis'

dreams, those dreams became nightmares “these nightmares see that they provide a portrait of an unbearable and unavoidable reality” (45).

Death is one of the novel’s main themes. There is the death and the fear of being the next victim of U.S fire. Jawad lives in a dilemma: who is the next t visiting him in “al – maghaysil”? May be his father, may be his brothers, or even his sweetheart Reem. The death is the main result of the war, the death become a commonplace because of the massive violence, injury, and death. Jawad explain his dilemma “All I knew was that I was tired of myself and of everything around me. I knew that my heart was a hole one could pass through but never reside in. I desired her and wanted her, but I was drained. I was not material for marriage or a family” (Antoon153). Jawad refused to get married with his love Reem because he does not have good future or even good picture about what will happen in the coming days. Jawad’s life stopped waiting for the death and only death.

Many characters in the novel die and others disappear. Reem disappears for a long time just after her engagement with Jawad, which pushes Jawad to live with an internal conflict, “what happened?” “Where is Reem ?” “Is she alive or dead?” This is the life of many Iraqis during the war, they lost their families without any information if they are still alive or dead. At the end of the novel, Jawad decides to leave Iraq and settle in Jordan to join his uncle in Germany as soon as possible. Jawad declared that:“I am like thepomegranate tree, but all my branches have been cut, broken, and buried with the dead. My heart has become a shrunken pomegranate beating with death and falling every second into a bottomless pit. But noon knows. No one. The pomegranate alone knows”(184).

Zahra Habeeb in *Writing Trauma in Iraq* sums up the novel’s ideas in few words. She says:

Antoon use his corpse-washer protagonist to show how living through the prolonged war and oppression trauma has altered people’s view of living and

merged the boundaries between their perception of life and death. The Corpse Washer's protagonist, Jawad , is traumatized by his constant contact with dead bodies that are growing dramatically in number. The overwhelming presence of death is increasingly shaping the face of life in the whole country (28).

SinanAntoon works represent the Iraqi daily life, their horrors, their lost, and the hopelessness. Its works are the sample of Iraqi's life after the invasion, he depicts how the Iraqi dreams become nightmares, and their nights become fire and pain.

## CONCLUSION

This thesis answers the questions that were asked in the beginning of this research about “The Cultural Representation of the Iraq war” through analyzing the cultural products mentioned before in the first and the second chapters. We conclude that the Iraq war was mis-represented by the mentioned cultural products and it is romanticized. Those products are under the rule of the invaded power which is the U.S. government. They had shown what the U.S allowed and what it decided to show. Most of those products were accepted among the public opinion because of the absence of other products which contrast them. Besides, those cultural products shaped the public opinion and influence the otherness image, they participated in drawing Iraq image in the others mind. This fake picture of Iraq war was the reality for the most of people as the Iraq war real events were unknown for them.

The difference between the Arabic works presented the Iraq war and those works produced by the Americans is that the Arabic production was from the hurt of the nation. Those writers or journalist or even if the photographers produce their pain and describe their real feeling since they are the victims of the war and the hope of their people to find the way to push the enemy in the outdoors of their country. While the American ones are the murder and the killer who look for the power and more emergence. Their works were from their love to be more successful and more shine. The Arabic producers were looking for show their issue to the world as victims of war and the American army come to take their land and their natural resources. They show their suffering and how the war killed their hope in a better life and better future. Conversely, The Americans tries to support their government arguments that Iraq is a location of terrorism and Al-Qaada and Nuclear

weapon. The Arabic producers wrote about their nation, rights and their pain while the American wrote about fake arguments and fake emotions.

It can be concluded that the media was a weapon used by the U.S.A government to romanticize the Iraq war and dehumanization of the war's results. The mass media (channels coverage) was totally different from the war real consequences. Al-Jazeera Broadcasting Network tries to be as close as possible to the truth and to get the audiences trust toward the material presented through its coverage. The U.S.A government attempts through its power to stop Al-Jazeera coverage by killing its journalists, close its offices and pay money to write a fake news. CNN Broadcasting network was in the first lines of the war's channels coverage and since it was the first channels which cover the war , it takes the cake in the war news. CNN network was a translation for the U.S.A want. It describes what its government want the world to know. It focus more on the military cost of the war rather than the human side.

This study concludes that Hollywood's movies role was very important and crucial. People interact with the ideas presented in Hollywood movies and accepted the image illustrated beyond their cameras. Hollywood movies describes American soldiers as heroes who fight the terrorism and describes the Iraqis as a barbaric. That led to a negative reaction among the public opinion due to the misuse of the Iraqis as terrorists and criminals. The same do novels and literary works which were describe the war according to their personal feelings and experiences. They wrote the influence of the war upon their daily life. Both writers the American and Iraqis wrote the war events with sincerity and trueness since it has been written not for pleasure and entertainment but for showing the real war far from the pressure of any external power.

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## المخلص :

تدرس هذه الأطروحة "التمثيل الثقافي لحرب العراق" (2003) وتهدف إلى توضيح وتحليل التمثيل الثقافي للغزو العراقي (2003) في وسائل الإعلام ، وتشمل كلا من حرب العراق في التمثيل الإعلامي وأفلام هوليوود والروايات، بينما الفصل الأول الذي نتعامل فيه مع الخلفية التاريخية للحرب ، وهو يشرح أسباب الحرب ونتائجها ، ثم نتحدث عن نظريات التمثيل وتأثيرها على تشكيل تصورات الرأي العام كنظريات للثقافة والهيكلية وكيف تصور أحداث الحرب ، ثم يركز هذا الفصل على الطريقة التي تمثل بها وسائل الإعلام الحرب أو كيفية تشويهها في المنتج الثقافي الذي يؤثر على الرأي العام وكذلك ندرس بعض قنوات التمثيل وتصويرها للأحداث في الحرب و دور أفلام هوليوود والروايات في غزو العراق. إنها تركز على دور أفلام هوليوود وكيف تعاملوا مع هذا الموضوع ، اخترنا فيلمًا أمريكيًا يعتمد على قصة رواية القناص الأمريكي. أخيرًا ، نأخذ في الاعتبار الأهمية الأدبية التي تعمل في سرد الحرب ، وكيف فعلنا ذلك؟ يعرض المؤلفون وجهة نظره للعالم من خلال أعمالهم وكيف أن حرب العراق غالباً ما تكون من جانب واحد تشوه فيها الأحداث الحقيقية التي حدثت أثناء الحرب. علاوة على ذلك ، ألقينا الضوء على طرق وسائل الإعلام ، وهوليوود ، والروايات تتعامل مع قضايا الحرب وكيف تصوروها لتشكيل الرأي العام.

## الكلمات المفتاحية:

الإعلام ، غزو العراق ، التمثيل الثقافي ، ستيوارت هال ، الدراسة السيميائية ، القناص أمريكي.