FIGURE 3.1 Levels of Analysis in International Relations

- International System
  - alliances
  - international norms/rules
- State
  - government
  - economy
  - national interest
- Individual
  - personality
  - perceptions
  - activities
  - choices
- Intergovernmental organizations
- Multinational corporations
The Individual Level of Analysis

- Personality
- Perceptions
- Choices
- Activities of decision makers
The State Level of Analysis

- Characteristics of the state
- Type of government
- Type of economic system
- Interest groups
• General characteristics of the interactions among states and international organizations

• Includes the distribution of power among these actors
## Major Events Leading Up to and of the 2003 Iraq War

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 11, 2001</td>
<td>Terrorist attacks against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon are answered by an immediate commitment by the U.S. government to fight global terrorism and punish those responsible.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 7, 2001</td>
<td>United States strikes targets in Afghanistan in order to oust the Taliban from power, whose government harbors Al Qaeda terrorists.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 14, 2001</td>
<td>United States announces ouster of Taliban from power in Afghanistan.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 29, 2002</td>
<td>President George W. Bush labels Iraq, Iran, and North Korea members of an “axis of evil” threatening world peace.</td>
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<td>October 2, 2002</td>
<td>U.S. Congress authorizes the president to use U.S. armed forces against Iraq.</td>
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<td>October 8, 2002</td>
<td>U.N. resolution holds Iraq in material breach of previous resolutions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2003</td>
<td>United States stops trying to fashion a U.N. resolution authorizing use of military force, acknowledging failure to get approval of five permanent members of the Security Council.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 17, 2003</td>
<td>United States issues a 48-hour ultimatum for the Baathist regime and its leader, Saddam Hussein, to leave Iraq.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 19, 2003</td>
<td>Decapitation attack is launched against Saddam. U.S. Special Operations forces enter Iraq, followed by the movement of coalition ground forces into Iraq.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 9, 2003</td>
<td>Iraqi regime falls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2003–present</td>
<td>Efforts continue to establish security in midst of resistance to U.S. presence and rising sectarian violence.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Explanations for the United States’ Invasion of Iraq in 2003 by Level of Analysis

• *Individual Level*
  - Saddam was evil leader who committed atrocities
  - Saddam was irrational, otherwise he would have capitulated to superior capability of the U.S. and British coalition
  - G.W. Bush and his advisers have targeted Saddam since the late 1990s
Explanations for the United States’ Invasion of Iraq in 2003 by Level of Analysis (cont.)

• **State Level**
  • U.S. must protect its national security; Iraq’s weapons threaten U.S. security
  • Ousting Taliban from Afghanistan was first step in war on terrorism; Iraq is the second
  • U.S. must be assured of stable oil supply; Iraq has second largest oil reserves
  • U.S. must not permit terrorist states access to weapons
  • U.S. national interest to build progressive Arab regime
Explanations for the United States’ Invasion of Iraq in 2003 by Level of Analysis (cont.)

- **International Level**
  - UN resolutions condemning Iraq had to be enforced to maintain UN legitimacy
  - Unipolar international system is uniquely capable of responding to threats to stability
  - There is international moral imperative for humanitarian intervention to oust evil leaders and install democratic regimes