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Interview dates: August 3-5, 2004
Interviews: 1,001 adults, 798 registered voters
Margin of error: ± 3.1 for all adults, ± 3.5 for registered voters

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS POLL
CONDUCTED BY IPSOS-PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

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***Americans Evenly Divided on War in Iraq;
Growing Share Say It Was a Mistake***

The Associated Press Poll is conducted by Ipsos-Public Affairs. Between August 3-5, 2004, the AP/Ipsos poll interviewed a representative sample of 1,001 adults nationwide, including 798 registered voters. The margin of error is ± 3.1 for all adults, ± 3.5 for registered voters. Margin of error for subgroups may be higher.

Washington, D.C., August 19, 2004 — The capture of Saddam Hussein was far from the end of the conflict in Iraq, so indicates the latest poll for the Associated Press conducted by Ipsos-Public Affairs. Last December, right after the capture of Saddam Hussein, by a two-to-one margin Americans said going to war in Iraq was the right thing to do. By April, support was more muted, and opinion now narrowly leans toward saying going to war was a mistake.

Thinking specifically about the situation in Iraq ...

Q. All in all, thinking about how things have gone in Iraq since the United States went to war there in March 2003, do you think the (United States/Bush administration)¹ ...

	United States			Bush Administration		
	8/3 - 5/04	4/16- 18/04	12/15- 17/03	8/3 - 5/04	4/16- 18/04	12/15- 17/03
Made the right decision in going to war in Iraq.....	48	57	64	45	48	67
Made a mistake in going to war in Iraq	50	40	34	53	49	29
Not sure	2	3	2	2	3	4

¹ Half the respondents were asked if the "United States" had made the right decision/mistake, and the other half were asked if the "Bush administration" had.

This question was asked two ways. Half of respondents were asked about whether "the United States" made the right decision or made a mistake, and the other half were asked about the Bush administration. In December, the Bush Administration may have gotten a little extra credit (67%; vs. 64% for the United States). By April and again in August, the Bush administration receives somewhat more criticism than the country as a whole for the decision.

The view that the Bush administration made a mistake in Iraq is especially pronounced among:

- Registered voters who are Kerry-Edwards supporters (90%)
- Registered voters who are Democrats (84%; 88% Democratic men)
- Non-whites (80%)
- People under 30 (65%)
- Renters (71%) and people with low household income (60%) and no investments (61%)
- Unmarried men (62%) and women (63%)
- Residents of the Pacific region (62%)
- As well as those saying country is on the wrong track (78%)

Between December and now, the most dramatic increase in the opinion that going to war in Iraq was a mistake is found among members of minority groups (+40 points). Sizeable increases in saying it was a mistake are also apparent among:

- People in their twenties and thirties (+29 points)
- People in low-income households (+31)
- Democrats (+30)
- Men (+29), including unmarried (+25) and Democratic (+32) men
- Residents of the Pacific (+28) and Northeastern (+28) U.S.
- Catholics (+28, vs. +15 among Protestants)

The strongest factor driving the view that the Bush administration made the right decision in Iraq is partisanship. Nine in ten of registered voters who are Republicans (86%; 91% Republican men) and those who are Bush-Cheney supporters (89%) say it was the right decision – but so does 64% of Independents (the same as in December 2003). Support for the administration's decision to go to war is relatively stronger – but not overwhelmingly so – among:

- People in their forties (55%) and fifties (51%)
- Whites (53%)
- People in the Oil Patch (56%) and Great Lakes (52%) regions
- Those in higher income brackets (55% of those with annual household income over \$75,000) and investors (52%)
- Married men (52%) and women (53%)

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