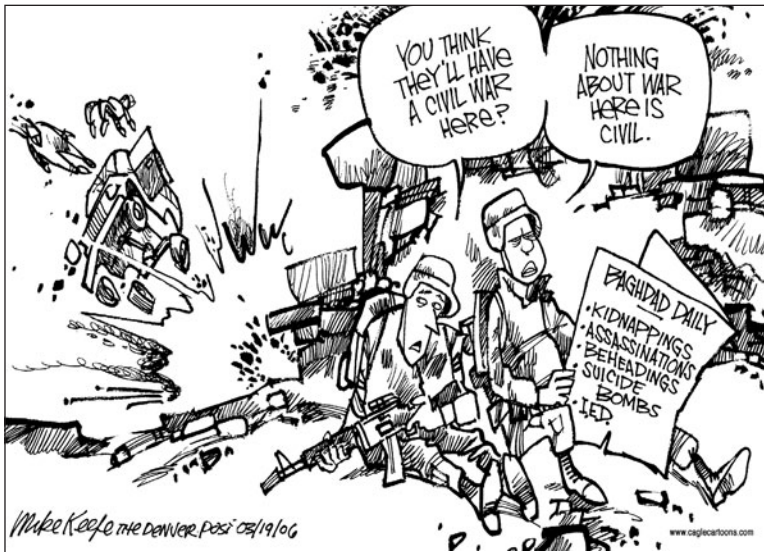


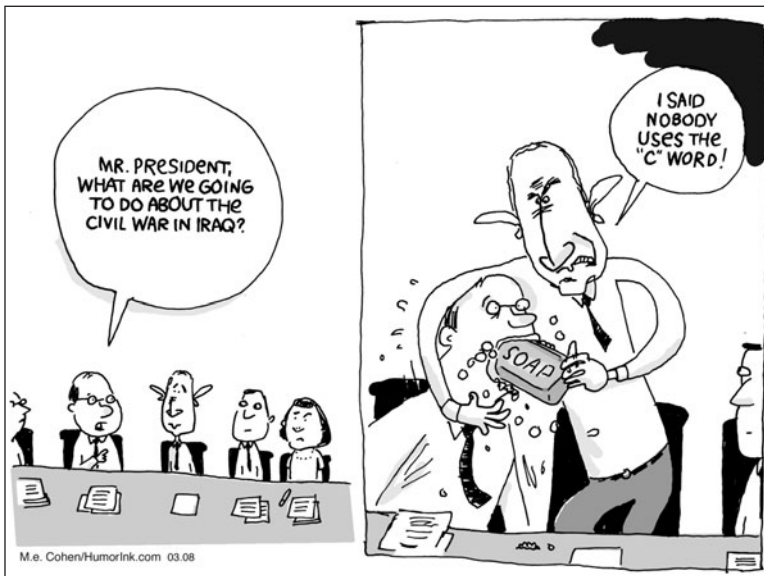


# Is Iraq Facing a Civil War?

## A GALLERY OF VIEWS



More than three years after the U.S. invasion, Iraq continues to be wracked by violence, as the articles **Crossing the Lines** on pages 7-8 and **An Eye for an Eye** on pages 9-10 describe. Some experts are suggesting that what we are witnessing in Iraq is a civil war. But the Bush Administration has been reluctant to mention that phrase and hopes that the coming months will bring enough progress to enable American troops to begin coming home. In response to the question of whether a civil war is under way in Iraq, commentators have offered a variety of perspectives. Study the three cartoons at left. Then answer the questions below.



1. Describe the action taking place in each image. What figures are shown? What symbols do you see?
2. What two adjectives would you use to characterize the demeanor of the soldiers in the top cartoon? Why do you think the cartoonist drew them this way? Do you believe there is such a thing as a “civilized war”?
3. How does the creator of the middle cartoon depict President Bush? Why do you think Bush does not want the words *civil war* spoken regarding Iraq?



4. How does the creator of the third cartoon view events in Iraq? Do you agree with him?
5. Of the three images, which suggests most strongly that a civil war is under way in Iraq? Explain.
6. **Following Up.** Using library resources or the Internet, conduct research and determine your own opinion as to whether civil war is occurring in Iraq. Write a letter to the editor of TIME expressing your ideas on this subject.