

WIN WITHOUT WAR

Explaining the **A**uthorization for **U**se of **M**ilitary **F**orce

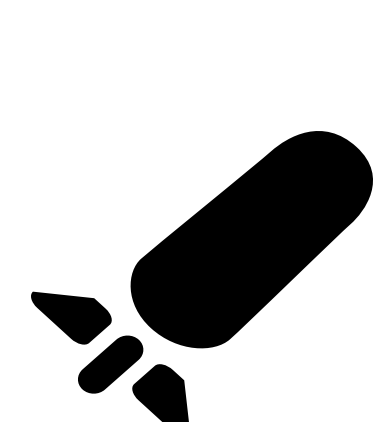
Blank Checks for Endless War

Instead of declaring war, since WWII **Congress has chosen to authorize presidents to use military force abroad by passing AUMFs.** After the 9/11 attacks, Congress passed the **2001 AUMF** authorizing the invasion of Afghanistan, and a year later the **2002 AUMF** to invade Iraq.

But two decades later, these AUMFs are still on the books. President after president has used these outdated AUMFs to wage wars all over the world, with no public debate and little congressional oversight.

So what are these laws exactly?

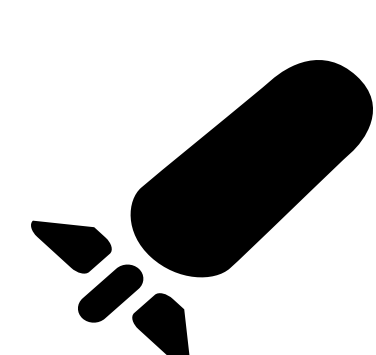
The 2001 AUMF



Passed to authorize military force against those who perpetrated or aided the 9/11 attacks — leading to the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan



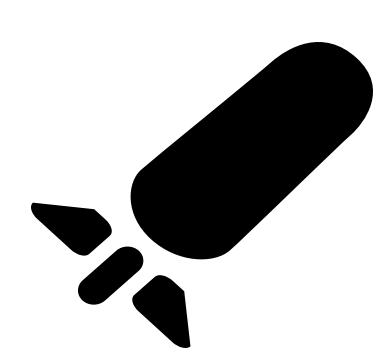
NO geographic limits



So vague that government lawyers argue the president has powers to wage wars that have nothing to do with 9/11



NO expiration date



Enabled military action including bombings, covert operations, drone strikes, training and equipping foreign militaries, and detaining prisoners without legal process



NO specific description of targets

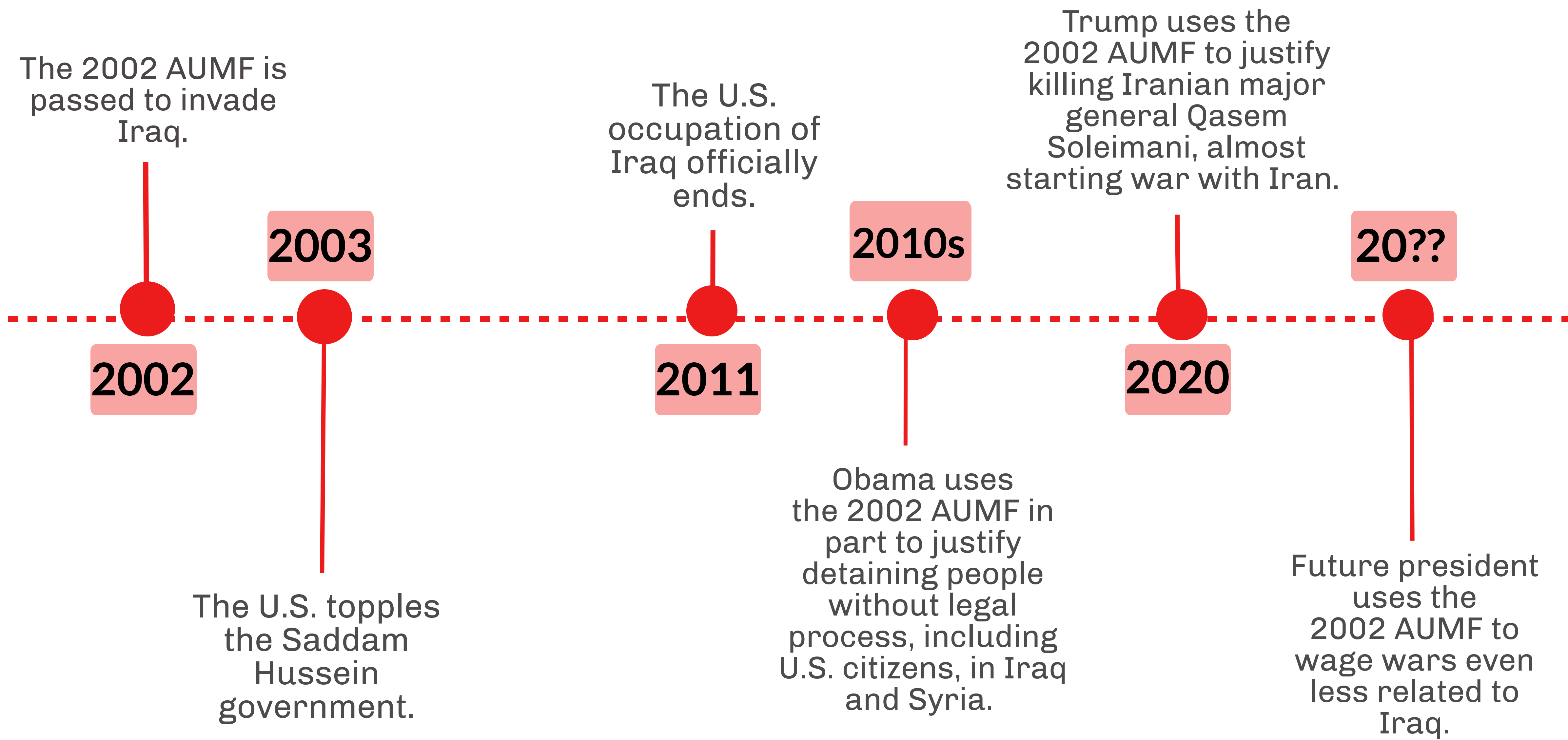


NO requirements to report to the public on how the AUMF is being used

The 2001 AUMF has been cited by four administrations to justify countless operations in at least 19 countries.

The 2002 AUMF

The 2002 AUMF was passed to invade Iraq, on the *false* claim that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. But long after the end of the Iraq War, this AUMF continued to be used to justify military action.



An AUMF is not necessary for self-defense. The president still has the right to defend the U.S. militarily against an imminent threat.

Ending the President's Blank Checks for War:

1

Congress must repeal the 2001 and 2002 AUMFs.

2

Congress must debate whether more war actually serves the security of people in the United States and around the world. Reckoning with the costs and failures of the last 20 years of war and beyond is essential to determining the right way forward.

3

If Congress decides to pass a new AUMF, it must have clear mission objectives, geographic and time limits, specific targets, and a requirement to update the public on how it's being used.